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TODAY 10P

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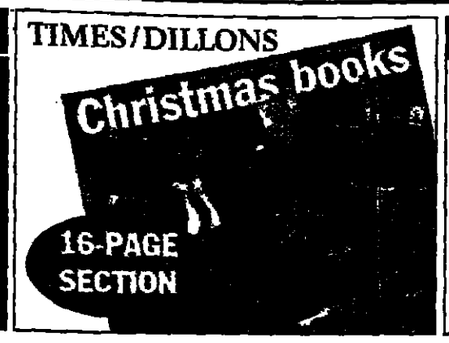

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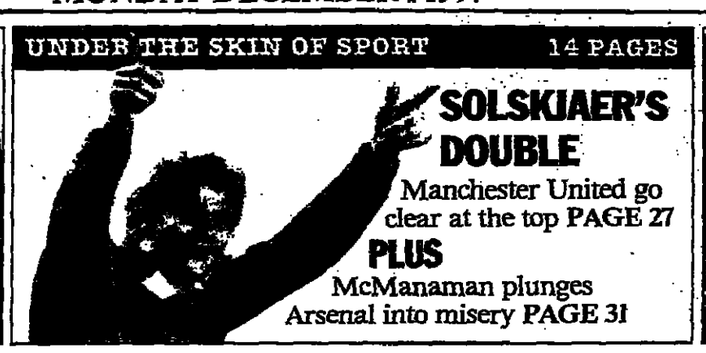

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TODAY 10P

Harman withdraws from interview

Benefit cuts delay could buy off rebels

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

A CUT in lone parents' benefits could be put off until next autumn as ministers seek to defuse the biggest backbench revolt since Labour returned to power.

More than 120 MPs are demanding that the cut be delayed for at least a year, and many have threatened to vote against the Bill that would reduce some parents' benefits by up to £11 a week from April.

A six-month delay could appease many of those rebels, since the benefit change would then coincide with new of welfare-to-work measures — including more childcare clubs — announced by Gordon Brown last week to help single parents back to work.

Clive Soley, the Parliamentary Labour Party chairman, said that Mr Brown had answered some MPs' concerns, but the Government still had to do more to convince all of his colleagues "Some people are still not happy," he said.

And the scale of the problem for the Government was further underlined when Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, withdrew from a BBC interview amid reports that Labour spin-doctors feared she might inflame the situation.

If a compromise is not reached, Labour whips will try to outflank the rebels by giving them leave from parliamentary duties to spend time in their constituencies during the crucial vote. But the tactic dismayed opponents of the change — first proposed by the Conservative Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley last November. "It effectively means that even the abstainers will not be able to register their protest," one said.

"Oh look, it's a single mother at the bottom of the tree"

The Tories will exploit the Government's discomfort today during an opposition debate on the theme of welfare. They will taunt Ms Harman, who had said of Mr Lilley's proposals last November: "The way to get lone mothers out of poverty and cut spending on benefits is not by cutting the amount on which they have to live year by year and plunging them further into poverty." She is now endorsing the measure.

Iain Duncan Smith, the shadow Social Security Secretary, said yesterday: "When Labour announced before the election that they would stick to Conservative spending plans, Labour knew that this would mean making cuts to lone parents' benefits.

"Yet both Tony Blair and Harriet Harman publicly stated in the weeks running up to the election that they would not make cuts to lone parents' benefits. The decision to withdraw Harriet Harman from the BBC interview means that her credibility is in tatters."

Nor did Labour rebels show any sign of easing the pressure, with at least one parliamentary aide to a Cabinet minister considering abstaining — which would mean having to resign.

Audrey Wise, the Preston MP, who is one of the leading campaigners for lone parents, said: "The problem we have is that the Government are carrying out a Tory policy — the Peter Lilley Memorial Bill". And the mother and son team Ann and John Cryer also joined forces against the Government. Mrs Cryer said: "We ought to stand together on this and we ought to send a message to women outside, those who are going to be on the receiving end, that we're on their side."

But Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, defended the Government's handling of the issue, saying it had to put the nation's finances on a stable footing.

Letters, page 23

DES JENSON

Michael Dobbs, author of the *House of Cards* political trilogy, at his Dorset farmhouse which he is having to sell because of financial difficulties. Page 3

Health alert after eyes of CJD victim are transplanted

BY MARK HENDERSON

HEALTH officials launched an urgent inquiry into transplant procedures yesterday after it emerged that three patients had received tissue from the eyes of a Scottish woman with Creutzfeld-Jakob disease, the human form of mad cow disease. Screening guidelines may now be changed.

The corneas and sclera of Marion Hamilton, who died of lung cancer in February, were cleared for transplant despite a post-mortem examination which showed she had CJD. The results were not passed to the United Kingdom Transplant Support Service, which arranged for three patients — two men and a woman in her 80s — to receive Mrs Hamilton's eye tissue. It is not yet clear whether the results were available when the operations took place.

The hospital which carried out the post-mortem, Stirling Royal Infirmary, is to hold its own inquiry.

Organs and tissues for transplant are not routinely tested for CJD because the disease is so rare, though they are screened for other viruses and bacteria. Organs such as hearts and livers cannot be tested for the disease as they must be transplanted within six hours of death and the CJD test takes months. Corneas can be tested as they can be kept for two months before transplant. Experts believe CJD can be transmitted though transplants.

Sam Galbraith, the Scottish Office Health Minister, said his department would investigate how the Stirling incident took place and ways of improving checks on donated organs: "It is important when we explore the cause of death that we consider what possible concurrent diseases ... are there. We will try and tighten up these procedures."

The Department of Health will consider a review of transplant procedures nationwide when the inquiry has established what happened in Stirling.

Mrs Hamilton, 53, who had three daughters and was separated from her husband, had not been diagnosed with CJD before her death. One of her daughters said she had been behaving erratically in the weeks before she died. She was said to have been staggering and falling over, and had become a "senile old lady" in her early 50s.

Mrs Hamilton was cared for at Strathcarron Hospice in Stirlingshire after being diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. Before her death she signed a donor registration form allowing for her eyes, which were not affected by the cancer, to be used for transplants. None of her other organs was donated.

A spokesman for the United Kingdom Transplant Support Service said it was satisfied the Stirling incident was a one-off and welcomed the Scottish Office's swift move to investigate it. "We are sure the transplant was carried out in good faith, but there are always lessons to be learned when there is such a serious mix-up."

More than 6,000 cornea transplants take place every year, and this was the first case of CJD contamination the service had seen, she said.

Stirling Royal Infirmary is part of the national transplant network, under which available organs and tissues are matched with patients by computer and sent to hospitals for immediate surgery.

Helicopter rescues crew in Channel

THE CREW of a Cypriot-registered cargo ship abandoned her in the English Channel yesterday after she began to capsize in heavy seas 15 miles off Cherbourg, apparently because the freight had shifted.

After broadcasting a Mayday call the foreign crew and Italian master of the *Rosa* took to lifeboats. A British helicopter helped to winch 22 of them from lifeboats to a nearby merchant ship. Five others made their way ashore in a lifeboat.

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Lord Chancellor's strategy to end Whitehall feuding

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has proposed a new form of collective government in which he signals an end to Whitehall "turf wars" and damaging spending battles between ministers' departments.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's proposal for policy-making under Labour — outlined to *The Times* — envisages a change in Whitehall culture in which officials fight to protect their departments at the expense of others. It also includes a key role for own post as chief adviser to the Prime Minister, returning to the function of the Lord Chancellor under the Crown centuries ago.

Signs that some ministers might resist a powerful role for the Lord Chancellor emerged yesterday when Lord Irvine was accused of meddling with army discipline. He had given a warning that the code might be in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Lord Irvine, a close friend and adviser to Tony Blair, said he wanted an end to squabbling in which civil servants see themselves as loyal to their departments. "I hope to see a decline in the practice of officials giving ministers briefs which include information marked 'not to be disclosed' to Cabinet colleagues because the information is damaging to the individual department's cause," he said.

He also wants ministers to stop blindly defending their own officials. Instead they should evaluate critically the officials' advice, he said.

Of his own position, Lord Irvine said he could compare himself with Thomas Wolsey who, as Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII, had an "important wide-ranging role, encompassing politics, religion, the economy and even military affairs".

Like Wolsey, Lord Irvine said, he was chairman of a "star chamber", a Cabinet Committee in charge of Queen's speeches and future legislation. The function was "entirely appropriate" for the Lord Chancellor because he had no other political ambitions.

Lord Irvine believes no other Lord Chancellor since the war has fulfilled this role, one which exposed him to "fear and hatred in equal measure".

He conceded that his relationship with Mr Blair, a former pupil who he took in as a young barrister to chambers, is closer than any post-war Lord Chancellor has had with the Prime Minister.

However, Lord Irvine said

Continued on page 2, col 7

Lord Irvine: key role

Leading article, page 23

Clarke would aid Blair on EMU

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE is prepared to share a platform with Tony Blair in a referendum campaign seeking support for British membership of a European single currency.

In a move that will trigger more turmoil in the Conservative Party over Europe, the former Chancellor has told friends that he agreed with the conclusion of the Government and that if the conditions were right for Britain to join, he would not hesitate to stand alongside the Prime Minister and other Labour ministers in support of a cause he has held dear all his life.

Mr Clarke is privately despairing of William Hague's insistence that the Tories will oppose the single currency at the next election come what may. His readiness to line up with Labour will mean that the divisions that afflicted John Major at the last election are certain to dog Mr Hague at the next.

Mr Clarke believes that Mr Hague has lurched to the Right to counter the threat of a political comeback by Michael Portillo whom the Tory leader regards as the "king across the water". The former Defence Secretary will return to the front line of Conservative politics in the new year with a speaking tour of universities and colleges to try to revive the Tory youth vote. The tour was initiated by Mr Portillo, not by Conservative Central Office.

As Mr Hague struggles to shake off the worst opinion poll ratings for a Tory leader in recent memory Mr Clarke has confided to his supporters that he believes the continuing internal divisions over Europe could relegate the Tories to third place at the next election.

He believes Euro-scepticism will be dead within 20 years, but fears that the Tory Party will be buried alongside it unless the internal warfare is halted. Gordon Brown has ruled out a government decision to join a single currency this side of the next election, although there are clear indications that if the single cur-

Continued on page 2, col 1

Peter Riddell, page 22

Germans give thumbs up to British roadworks

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LEGIONS of drivers sitting in traffic jams drumming their fingers impatiently on steering wheels will gain little consolation from the news, but British roadworks have been given the German seal of approval. For pure efficiency, clarity and courtesy to motorists, our system of roadworks design has been praised as "brilliant" by German and Austrian motoring experts visiting England.

Thomas Wank, from the German motoring organisation OAMTC, and Johannes Korherr, his co-driver, have just ended a four-day tour of England's roads as part of a trans-European study of road safety. Their conclusion is that Britain's repair system sets it apart from other countries they have visited.

"I think your roadworks are brilliant," Herr Wank said. "They are very clearly marked. You are told four miles away that you are approaching roadworks, and you are warned to slow down. There is also a telephone number to ring if you want to complain, and there are signs apologising for delays. That does not happen in other countries, and I think your roadworks are very clear and visible."

He is even prepared to base his matrimonial plans on the quality of the roadworks he encountered in Britain. "I would especially like to marry the daughter of the man who makes your traffic cones," he said. During the road tour, scores of highways were examined as part of the most exhaustive study of road signs and road planning ever carried out across Europe. However, apart from the excellence of Britain's many roadworks, the abiding memory of England's roads for the team was aggressive driving. This aggression and acceleration at roundabouts were the main dangers encountered by members of the team during their British visit.

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Minister faces questions on 'tax haven'

Tories accuse Government of hypocrisy over off-shore trust, writes James Landale

Geoffrey Robinson: calls for a statement

THE millionaire government minister, Geoffrey Robinson, will today face Tory demands for a detailed Commons statement on his business affairs after it emerged that he has a multimillion-pound off-shore trust.

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, accused Labour of "breathtaking hypocrisy" for demanding an end to tax havens for millionaires while allowing one of its ministers to benefit from them.

Mr Robinson, the Paymaster General and former chief executive of Jaguar Cars, issued a statement over the weekend revealing that he was a discretionary beneficiary of a £12 million trust in Guernsey. The statement, issued to counter reports in a Sunday newspaper, said that the Orion Trust was set up by a family friend, Madame Joska Bourgeois, a Belgian national who lived in Switzerland. Mms Bourgeois, who died in 1994, was a wealthy importer of Jaguar cars.

It is understood that Mr Robinson, MP for Coventry North West, has received no benefit from the trust since he became a minister shortly after the general election in May. Mr Robinson, who last summer entertained Tony Blair at his luxurious Tuscan villa, categorically denied reports that he had avoided paying tax. Because of Mme Bourgeois's nationality and residence, "there was no, nor could there have been, any UK tax avoidance," he said.

He added: "Moreover, at no time have I transferred capital or other assets into the Orion Trust for tax or any other purpose."

Mr Robinson also revealed that since the election he had put most of his business assets — including shares worth £18 million in his engineering firm TransTec — in a blind trust.

Mr Robinson, who owns the left of centre New Statesman magazine, said he declared his beneficial interests in line with the Cabinet Office Ministerial Code and they were placed in a blind trust on May 7. The trust was drawn up by his solicitors, Titmuss Sainer Dechert, and with advice from the Treasurys Permanent Secretary Sir Terry Burns.

Mr Robinson, who has homes in Cannes, Surrey and London's Park Lane, also informed his solicitors and the Permanent Secretary that he was a discretionary beneficiary of the trust. The Tories agreed that there was no question of Mr Robinson doing anything illegal. But Mr Lilley pointed out that Gordon Brown had told the Labour Party Conference in 1996 that "a Labour Chancellor will not permit tax reliefs to millionaires in offshore tax havens".

He said: "Since the election, we have discovered that no few than two of his own Treasury Ministers are millionaires with trusts in off-shore tax havens. The sheer hypocrisy of Labour is breathtaking."

The second minister refers to Lord Simon of Highbury, the European Competition Minister, who speaks for the Treasury in the House of Lords. The former chairman of BP was forced to sell £2 million in shares, some of which were held in an off-shore trust, after Tory accusations of potential conflicts of interest with his new Government role.

Alistair Darling, Treasury Chief Secretary, defended Mr Robinson, insisting he had done everything according to the rules.

On BBC TV's *On the Record* programme, Mr Darling said: "He has done what every other Cabinet Minister and other Government minister has done in this Government and in the past."

Clarke would aid Blair on EMU

Continued from page 1
rency is proceeding satisfactorily after its launch in January 1999, the Government could take a decision soon after the general election to join. It would make Europe and EMU one of the key issues at the hustings.

But with the Tories committed to fighting the election on an anti-single-currency ticket, the imposing presence of Mr Clarke in the pro-Europe camp could bedevil the Tory campaign.

Mr Clarke's stark private analysis of the Tories' plight will come as no surprise to his pro-European supporters. But it is a clearwarning to Mr Hague of the dangers of pursuing what Mr Clarke and his supporters regard as a confrontational stance over Europe, which has already led to the resignation of two senior frontbenchers and the departure of the backbencher Peter Temple-Morris. If Mr Clarke joins Mr Blair on the referendum campaign trail, senior Tories fear that other pro-Europeans such as Michael Heseltine, John Gummer and David Curry could follow suit.

One of Mr Clarke's supporters said: "Ken could not be clearer. If, and only if, the terms are right for Britain's entry, he would be prepared to share a platform with Blair."

Peter Riddell, page 22

Adams No 10 visit on but he faces Boothroyd snub

Blair may be determined to 'drive forward' Stormont peace, but Speaker stands firm, reports Martin Fletcher

GERRY ADAMS is to meet Tony Blair at Downing Street on December 11, but the Sinn Fein president faces an almost certain rebuff when he meets Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, this week to press for access to the Palace of Westminster.

Miss Boothroyd has agreed to an unprecedented meeting with Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's two MPs, on Thursday because she never refuses to see elected members. However, it is thought highly unlikely that she will reverse her May ruling denying them Commons offices and other facilities unless they take their seats and swear allegiance to the Queen.

If Miss Boothroyd rejects their personal appeals Mr McGuinness, who unsuccessfully challenged her ruling in Belfast's High Court this autumn, will take the case to the European Court of Justice.

The Prime Minister's invitation means Mr Adams will become the first Irish republican leader to visit Downing Street since Michael Collins in 1921, and just six years after the IRA fired three mortars at No 10 during a meeting of John Major's Gulf War cabinet.

A spokesman said Mr Blair was determined to "drive forward" the Stormont peace talks, but insisted Mr Adams would be treated the same as other leaders participating in those talks. There would be no public handshake. Mr Adams and his delegation would be allowed to address what will undoubtedly be a huge media throng in the street outside the famous black front door.

Cecil Parkinson, the Conservative Party Chairman, said yesterday that it was "very, very early to be rewarding Gerry Adams" as the IRA had merely put its plans to blow up Downing Street "on ice". David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, accused the Government of "massaging the egos" of the Sinn Fein leadership to calm IRA "sabre-rattling". Jeffrey Donaldson, the UUP MP, said Mr Blair had given Sinn Fein a "propaganda coup".

But Paddy Ashdown, the Ulster-born Liberal Democrat leader, praised Mr Blair's courage and warned of a "terrifying period of blood and misery" unless Unionists grasped what he called "the best chance of peace my tortured country has ever had".

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said the invitation showed Mr Blair's determination "to do everything in his power to bring peace to Northern Ireland".

Sinn Fein said Mr Adams' invitation to Downing Street made his exclusion from Westminster even harder to justify. Sinn Fein's MPs were both elected by large majorities last May, but would have to be "signed in" by the Speaker in order to attend Thursday's meeting. "That will say something to a lot of people about the nature of British democracy at Westminster," said a spokesman.

Another row erupted after David Andrews, the Irish foreign minister, said that any new cross-border body should have executive powers and a secretariat "not unlike a government".

Such a proposal is anathema to Unionists, who consider nationalist demands for cross-border bodies a backdoor route to a united Ireland.

☐ A weekend conference of leading Unionists agreed to set up a think-tank to develop a unified strategy for defending the Union. The UUP is attending the Stormont talks but the Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties are boycotting them.

Theft of address list forces soldiers to move house

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

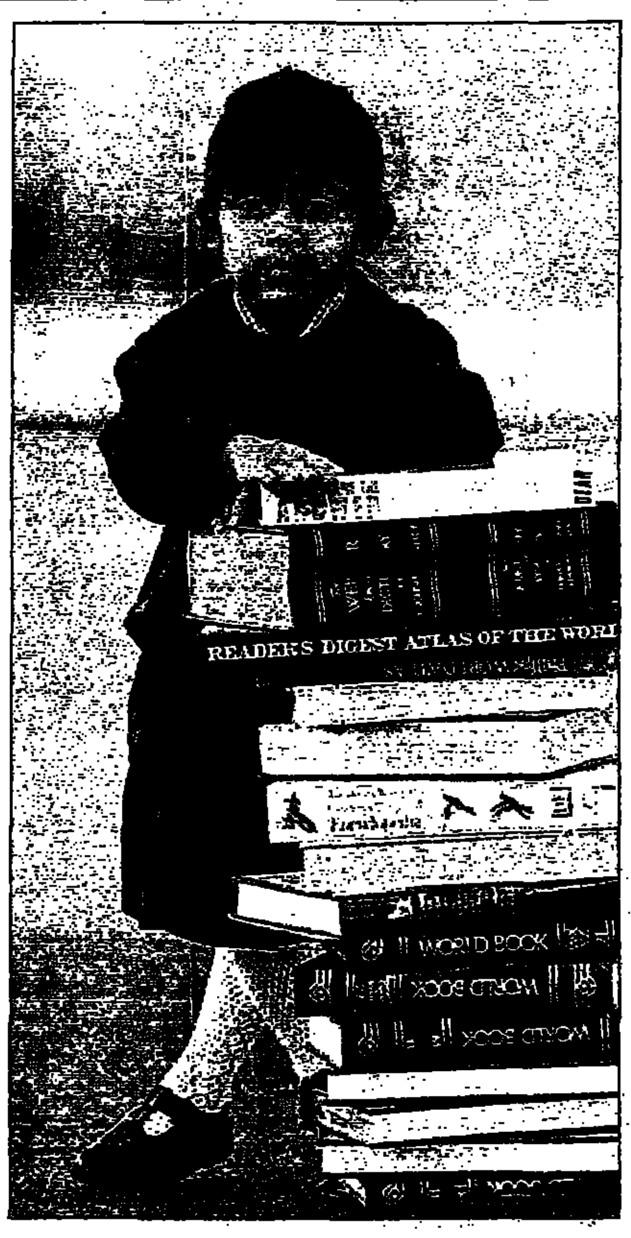
THE lives of 30 soldiers and former soldiers in Northern Ireland have been put at risk after files containing their names and addresses fell into the hands of the IRA.

The soldiers, several of whom were part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment, have been obliged to leave homes and jobs after one of the greatest security blunders of the Troubles. A full-time sergeant in the Royal Irish Regiment left the material in a clearly marked military briefcase in the back of his car while he visited a Sunday market close to Belfast International Airport.

The briefcase, containing an emergency call-out list of personnel who could be drafted into full-time service in the event of serious terrorist incidents, was taken when the car was stolen. The car was later found burnt out in the nationalist Poleglass estate on the edge of west Belfast. The RUC believes the files are in the hands of the IRA, possibly handed over by a joyrider.

The missing papers gave home addresses, car details, ex-directory telephone numbers, national insurance numbers and even photographs. The file was not up to date and a number of the people on the list had left the army but were listed as still serving.

The intelligence information disappeared before the IRA renewed its ceasefire last July. The soldier responsible for the lapse was disciplined and reduced in rank.



Brain of Britain, aged 3

This three-year-old girl has registered an IQ of 158, putting the youngest member of Mensa within the top 1 per cent of the population. Dineshi Nirgunananthan's mother, Rani, realised her daughter's intelligence when she began speaking French at two, had a reading age of ten by her third birthday and excelled on the piano, at swimming and in ballet. Dineshi, from Hanworth, West London, has now joined a class of five-year-olds.

Hypocrite MPs given warning on privacy

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

A SENIOR judge says that the Bench will not protect hypocritical politicians from press intrusion when they develop a new privacy law.

Dame Mary Arden, a High Court judge and chairman of the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, has said that politicians who propound family values but act differently in private should beware.

Her comments at a lecture in London come as ministers seek to assure the media that the privacy law which judges will develop when the Human Rights Bill becomes law will not impose harsh restraints on press freedom.

Last week the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said that judges were adept at balancing privacy and freedom of expression. He said courts would not be actively creating a privacy right. They would instead adapt and build on the common law, using principles found in the laws of trespass, nuisance and copyright.

Dame Mary, describing how the right to privacy and freedom of expression would be balanced, said that although hypocritical politicians could not expect protection, that did not mean that every detail of his of their lives was a matter of public interest which merited exposure.

Courts would be equally concerned to protect ordinary people who became caught up in some tragic event, such as the death of a child.

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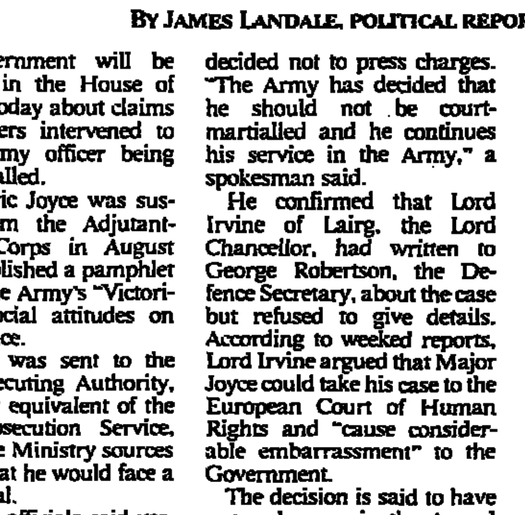

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RAC

Tories protest as major evades court martial

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Government will be challenged in the House of Commons today about claims that ministers intervened to stop an army officer being court-martialled.

Major Eric Joyce was suspended from the Adjutant-General's Corps in August after he published a pamphlet attacking the Army's "Victorian-style" social attitudes on class and race.

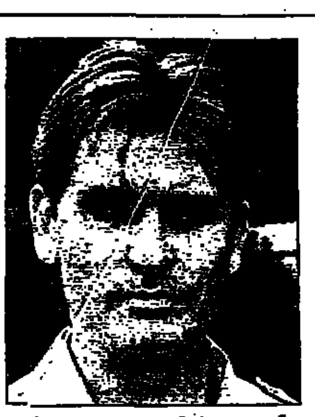
His case was sent to the Army Prosecuting Authority, the military equivalent of the Crown Prosecution Service, and Defence Ministry sources indicated that he would face a court martial.

However, officials said yesterday that the authority had decided not to press charges. "The Army has decided that he should not be court-martialled and he continues his service in the Army," a spokesman said.

He confirmed that Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, had written to George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, about the case but refused to give details. According to weeked reports, Lord Irvine argued that Major Joyce could take his case to the European Court of Human Rights and "cause considerable embarrassment" to the Government.

The decision is said to have angered many in the Armed Forces who resent government involvement in military discipline. Both the MoD and Labour denied claims that Major Joyce had once worked as an adviser for the party. Officials said John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, had met Major Joyce twice when he was an opposition defence spokesman. But he was just one of thousands of personnel the minister had met.

The MoD spokesman denied ministerial involvement in the case and said that the prosecuting authority had simply decided there was not enough evidence to press charges. "[Mr Reid] had no role whatsoever, nor had any other minister, in the army's handling of this issue," he said. But he admitted that it was "not normal" for a Cabinet Minister and the head of the Government's law department to be involved.



Joyce: accused Army of racial and class bias

Robert Key, the Tory defence spokesman, accused Labour ministers of putting "political spokes in the wheels of justice". The Tories would raise the issue in the Commons at Defence Questions today, he said.

Lord Chancellor's Whitehall plan

Continued from page 1
he had not been appointed because of "personal trust and confidence", but because there was a logical coherence in the Lord Chancellor having such a role.

Lord Irvine said that to carry out the programme of constitutional reform, "the most ambitious and wide-ranging in Britain this century", there had to be formidable co-ordinating machinery.

Reporting directly to the Cabinet was a ministerial committee chaired by the Prime Minister. Separate committees on devolution, freedom of information and the European Convention also reported to that committee.

"My pivotal role as chairman of all three committees is to ensure that we think through the detailed implications of each of our reforms and get the inter-connections right," he said. His job was to "pull together and support my Cabinet colleagues whose departments have the lead responsibility for the components of our programme, and make sure all interests in government are properly taken into account."

He said he found it startling that had John Smith, Tony Blair's predecessor as Labour leader, not been "cut down tragically", his close connection with the premiership would have been the same, Smith having been "my closest friend throughout life".

Leading article, page 23

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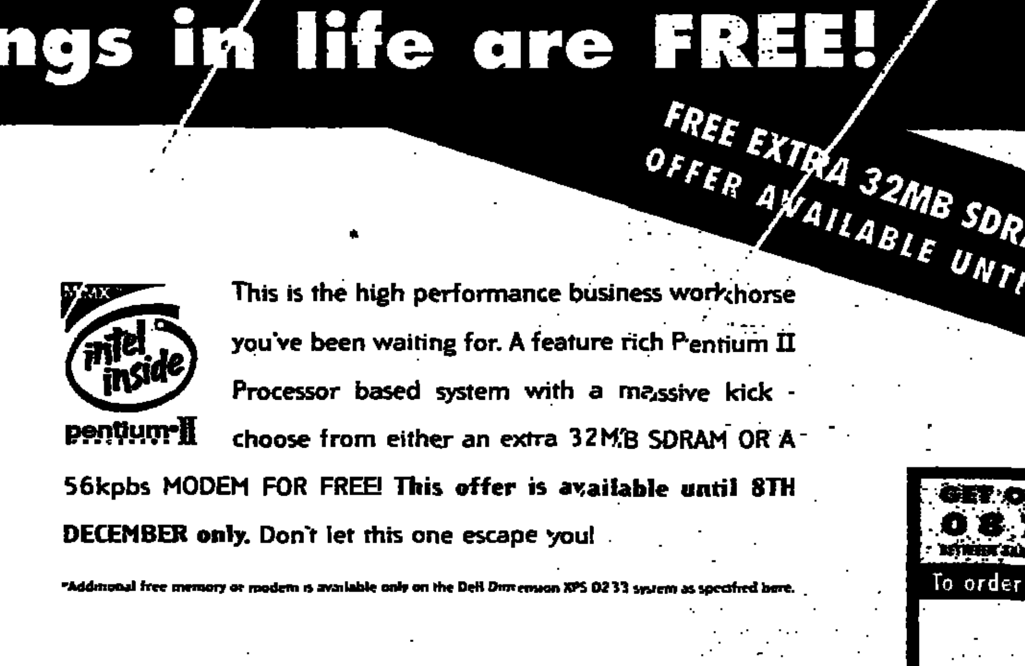

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House of cards collapses on luckless author

Politics has cost him his home and money. Andrew Pierce on the fall of the creator of Francis Urquhart

LIFE has suddenly dealt a bad hand to Michael Dobbs, the best-selling author of the *House of Cards* trilogy. The man who was tipped to be another Jeffrey Archer has financial problems and is selling his 17th-century farmhouse.

The former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, who was promoted by Margaret Thatcher and John Major, has put his Dorset home in five acres of land on the market for £550,000. He conceived the character of Francis Urquhart, the machiavellian anti-hero of his trilogy, in the study of the six-bedroom house.

Despite the international success of his books, Mr Dobbs has confessed that he has serious financial problems. "I am not facing bankruptcy but my cash-flow situation is chaotic," he said.

"I have decided to reorder my life, which will make me happy and my publishers happy. It will also make my bank manager happy. At the moment he is unhappy.

"He knows, and I know, that I have spent too much unpaid time away from home on politics and not enough time writing books and earning money. I have written only one book in the last three years. I have not had any income for the last two."

Mr Dobbs, 49, is moving back to London. His wife, Amanda, who inspired him to write *House of Cards*, has gone to work at a Buddhist school in Wales. Their sons William, 10, and Michael, 8, are at private school in the West Country. He declined to say whether the 17-year marriage was over.

The transition from Saatchi & Saatchi executive to Tory strategist to novelist was an extraordinary success. *House of Cards* has been one of the best overseas earners for the BBC in recent years. The political trilogy *House of Cards*, *To Play the King* and *The Final Cut* were international bestsellers. Mr Dobbs said: "I don't know how much I earned. I have not been extravagant. But I am not Jeffrey Archer. He is a phenomen — I'm not.

"Politics has been a passion that has taken me from the heights of public joy to the darkness of private despair. Cost me a fortune and my home."

Mrs Dobbs changed her name to O-Sel Nyima, which means Clear Light of the Sun, when she was ordained a Buddhist lama, or teacher. Her husband said: "I will not discuss my relationship. It is a personal matter. But there have been changes in my private life because of my involvement in politics for too many years. I have spent too much time away from home."

Mr Dobbs said that his devotion to the Tory party, which had been stretched to the limit by the new party leadership, had cost him dear both personally and financially. "I have been living in hotels for almost the last three years and have not received a bean in expenses from the Conservative Party.

"Politics must have cost me at least a six-figure sum. I'm not complaining. I am proud of what I have done in politics.

"But my experiences, like so many others' in politics, show that the perception which I unwittingly created through Francis Urquhart that politicians are in it only for themselves is not true at all."

In the new year his seventh novel, *The Buddha of Brewer Street*, will be published. In it, the Dalai Lama, the Buddhist icon, dies and is reborn in Soho. "My wife's experiences with Bhuddism were one of the reasons I wrote it," he said. He has high hopes of a television adaptation.

In the vast living-room of his house, near Bridport, statues of Buddha stand on pieces of furniture made by Dorset craftsmen. His study desk overlooks a splendid landscape. "I will miss it terribly," he said. "It will be a wrench leaving the countryside to live in London."

Michael and Amanda Dobbs at their farmhouse

McLauchlan and Grant Ferrie, who were married yesterday, pictured last year

Nurse held in Saudi prison weds boyfriend of five years

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND ADRIAN LEE

ONE of the two British nurses jailed in Saudi Arabia married her boyfriend yesterday. After the 20-minute ceremony at Damman court house Lucille McLauchlan and Grant Ferrie drank "Saudi champagne": a non alcoholic sparkling fruit juice.

The bride was then returned to prison where she shared her wedding cake with Deborah Parry, who also faced trial over the killing of their colleague Yvonne Gilford.

McLauchlan, 32, was the first foreign woman prisoner to have been allowed to marry in custody in Saudi Arabia. The service was conducted, under Saudi law, by a judge and McLauchlan, from Dundee, wore Western clothes.

The bride was given away by her brother, John. Her parents were not present and the only other guest was Lawson Ross, the British Consul, who took flowers. Two policemen stood by.

Parry, 39, was convicted of the murder of Australian nurse Ms Gilford, 55, and MacLauchlan, 32, of being her accomplice.

She was sentenced to eight years and 500 lashes, while the sentence on Parry, from Alton, Hampshire, has yet to be confirmed.

The threat of a possible death sentence for Parry was lifted after the family of Miss Gilford waived their right to demand the death penalty. Salah al-Hejailan, a defence lawyer for Ms McLauchlan, said the fact that yesterday's "unprecedented and unforgettable" ceremony was taking place showed Saudi officials could be flexible and understanding.

The lawyer said visits would be allowed by her 30-year-old husband after the marriage, in line with Saudi practice, and these would take place within the women's jail where she is held.

He said that Parry had not attended yesterday's service because she was making the most of a prison visit by her own relatives.

Family friends have said the couple had planned to marry in June, and decided they did not want the year to go by without showing their commitment to each other. They had been engaged for five years.

McLauchlan's lawyer said: "Even under the nightmare when she was facing the death penalty they were adamant to get married and were seeking permission."

Lawyers for Parry and MacLauchlan are confident that, after the lengthy appeals process is completed, neither will 'serve more than four years and could be back in Britain sooner if King Fahd intercedes with a royal pardon.

It is thought the pair may even be allowed to serve part of their sentences in Britain.

Frost forecast catches locusts on the hop

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AFTER one of the mildest autumns in recent years, Britain is about to lurch into a cold spell with snow flurries, sleet and ice forecast tomorrow. As well as making life uncomfortable for humans, the sudden chill will cause further disruption to plants and animals already confused by a year of abrupt temperature changes.

In the West Country naturalists have made rare sightings of locusts, while gardeners fear frost will this week cut down spring flowers tricked by the warmth into blooming weeks ahead of schedule.

The Met Office forecasts below-freezing temperatures at night in much of Britain through this week, with snow in Scotland and possibly north-east England. The AA warned motorists to take extra care.

The cold weather comes after the second warmest November in 20 years — in a year which saw an Easter heatwave followed by frosts in May and a variable summer that played havoc with fruit and cereal crops. William Hill and Ladbrokes were yesterday both offering odds of 6/1 on a white Christmas.

The locusts were spotted at two sites in Cornwall, the first on October 17 at Goldsithney, near Penzance, and the second only last week at Cremyll, near the mouth of the Tamar.

Chris Haes, a grasshopper expert who identified them, said: "What makes them highly unusual is that they were both specimens of the solitary phase type of the migratory locust. There have probably not been more than seven or eight definite records over the past 100 years. They could have come here from the Canary Islands, or even North Africa, on the strong, warm southerly winds that brought the recent freak thunderstorms." He said the insects would quickly be killed off by cold weather.

Meanwhile, camellias, which would normally not flower until the spring, are in full bloom in gardens near Truro in Cornwall, and the mild autumn has even triggered second flowerings in some plant species.

Forecast, page 26

Women at risk given emergency mobile link

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN who fear being attacked by violent partners are being given mobile telephones linked directly to the 999 service.

The scheme, developed by Hertfordshire police, was praised earlier this month in a Home Office report on good practice by police forces. It is now being studied by other forces.

Each of the seven police divisions in the Hertfordshire force has been issued with the £250 telephones, which are available to women and witnesses who are in danger of attack or victims of repeat burglaries.

The phones will only make calls to the 999 or Vodafone operator and give a unique identification sign. If the call is interrupted the sign is still transmitted and police will respond. The telephones also take incoming calls to allow police to check if the user is safe after an emergency call.

Father of raped girl to appeal on abortion ruling

BY AUDREY MAGEE

AN Irish father vowed yesterday to carry on the legal battle to prevent his 13-year-old pregnant daughter from travelling to England for an abortion.

The girl was given High Court permission on Friday to terminate the pregnancy, which resulting from an alleged rape in August. The father, who is a member of the travelling community, is appealing for public funds to appeal the Supreme Court to try to stop the girl. He said that if he failed he wanted the aborted foetus sent back to Ireland for a funeral.

He told Irish radio yesterday: "We are Roman Catholics and I have sought an awful lot of medical advice on it and this can do very, very serious damage to our daughter."

The man originally wanted his daughter to have the abortion but changed his mind when Youth Defence, a militant anti-abortion group, offered finanical support if the girl carried the baby to full term. The group said that they would not give the family money if the child has the abortion.

The family lives on the side of the road in squalid conditions in west Dublin. The father, who is entitled to legal aid, is looking for £10,000 from the 22,000 members of the travelling community to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Youth Defence has backed away from the case, fearing that further court action could further widen the parameters of when abortion is permissible in Ireland. At present, a woman or girl can have an abortion if her life is in danger. The High Court ruled that the 13-year-old, who is now 13 weeks pregnant, at the centre of this case was at risk of suicide.

Sources close to the case said that the father was trying to capitalise on his daughter's difficulty. A man in his twenties has been charged in connection with the rape.

Talented swimmer, 13, dies after gala

BY ADRIAN LEE

A 13-YEAR-OLD swimmer who was tipped to represent Britain at the Olympics collapsed and died after taking part in a gala. Laura Moss appeared to faint as she climbed out of the pool after a race in Weymouth, Dorset.

As hundreds of pupils and parents watched, lifeguards tried unsuccessfully to revive her. She died shortly after reaching hospital. The teenager, who had been selected to swim for England next month, was competing for Wey Valley School at Weymouth baths.

Her coach, Phil Daniels, said: "We are all absolutely devastated. Laura was an extremely talented athlete, and was a future Olympic star for Britain." Miss Moss was the youngest swimmer in Dorset to have been chosen for the national team and held county records in five disciplines.

Dorset Police said there were no suspicious circumstances and the coroner had been informed.

Robot vacuum runs into snag

Robin Young finds intelligent cleaner is reluctant to perform

THE first intelligent vacuum cleaner, claimed to be able to sweep the floor without the benefit of a human operator, will be introduced to a sceptical world this morning.

The bad news is that though the world's largest household appliance manufacturer has built and demonstrated its prototypes for the world's first robot vacuum cleaner, there are no plans yet to put it into production.

"We hope that the robot vacuum cleaner will become a standard item in homes all over the world in future," Ian Symes, group marketing director for Electrolux, said. "What could be more user friendly than a vacuum that operates itself? But we have more market research and devlopment to do before we can go into production."

The robot vacuum is a smooth, round disc with an in-built navigational radar that enables it to vacuum its way around the room without bumping into furniture or other obstacles. Its microprocessor "brain" enables it to look for ways out when it runs into a corner.

The manufacturer's blurb claims: "When placed on the ground the robot vacuum cleaner automatically starts cleaning. It will clean a room of any size or shape without any human help. Its radar first finds the nearest wall and it vacuums all around the edge of the room. Then it will clean the rest of the room in irregular stretches, slowing down when approaching an obstacle and steering out of the way."

Robot vacuum cleaner attracts keen interest

Elizabeth Farmer, marketing manager on the project, said that improvement in battery technology had been a key element in making the robt cleaner possible. "Compared to two years ago, we can now get twice the amount of energy from the same size batteries."

The robots are sensitive, though. One demonstration prototype intended for carpet-testing by *The Times* this week refused to perform after a BBC science correspondent had surreptitiously taken a screwdriver for a quick peek under its cover. The machine made hesitant little jigging motions on the carpet, turning itself only fractionally and not getting any cleaning done at all.

"That is the sort of problem that has to be resolved," said Ms Farmer. "A production model should be able to have its lid lifted without suffering a brainstorm."

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Dropout students cost Britain £180m a year

Cash problems and clearing system are most to blame for unhappiness at university, reports David Charter

THE cost of students who drop out of university has been put at £180 million a year by researchers for the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The huge bill represents public money spent on tuition, grants and university capital funding for the estimated 17 per cent of students who fail to finish their degrees.

A rethink of the transition from school to university is called for by the researchers, who found many dropouts were unhappy with the university they chose during "clearing", the frantic process to match students with spare places after A-level results are published.

The report, to be published later this month, suggests an induction period to make new undergraduates feel more at home, as well as changes to prospectuses to give students a better impression of the course or institution.

A summary of the report, seen by *The Times*, also contains a warning about the Government's introduction of £1,000 tuition fees for students from next autumn. Financial problems were found to be the second biggest influence on the decision to give up, mentioned by 39 per cent of those who dropped out in 1994-95, the year of the study.

The researchers said: "The findings indicate that those from working-class backgrounds are more likely than others to cite financial difficulties as a reason for withdrawal, and are less likely to re-engage in higher education.

"A close watch will need to be kept on the impact of the Government's funding decisions in respect of working-class participation and retention in higher education, given the 'social justice' intentions of its policy."

They added: "The findings indicate that the students who enter through the clearing process tend to withdraw because they are unhappy with their institutions rather than because they made a poor choice of programme. This suggests that they did not have time to investigate adequately the qualities of the institution prior to enrolment.

"The argument has long been advanced for a greater period of time between the publishing of A-level results and entry to higher education, and this study adds a little weight on the side of reform."

Most of the 1,478 students surveyed in the research at six universities gave several reasons for giving up. Top was the wrong choice of subject, said to be a "considerable" or "moderate" influence on the decision by 40 per cent of the dropouts. Other major influences were financial problems, lack of commitment, "course not what I expected", insufficient academic progress and the need for a break from education.

Two thirds of students who fail to complete their degrees drop out in the first year. If the money spent on completed years is assumed to be well spent, the annual amount wasted falls to £90 million.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities' and Colleges' Admissions Service, disputed the clearing process findings. He said: "Work we have done with universities and colleges shows that there is no greater dropout rate among people who go in for clearing.

"These people are making their decision a lot later and know more of what they want to do and what they are suited for. It underlines the need for a post-qualifications application system."

Harvey Atkinson advising a student yesterday. He urged parents not to mollycoddle their children

Best advice for homesickness is to stick it out

By Our Education Correspondent

THE weeks leading up to Christmas are the peak time for dropping out from university and the busiest period for campus counsellors. Advisers say students most at risk are those who decline to seek help for homesickness, second thoughts or health and work problems.

Harvey Atkinson, welfare officer at the University of Brighton, said: "When homesickness strikes, we try to encourage students to stick it out, stay at weekends and get involved with things. Once they have got into a studying routine, things start to normalise and people get over it."

If students were struggling with their course, they should see a welfare officer, personal tutor or counsellor to assess their options, he said. Mr Atkinson added: "Parents should understand their child is becoming an independent individual when they go to college and they don't need mollycoddling. One parent was ringing every hour, which was putting unbearable pressure on the student."

Peter Ross, past chairman of the Heads of University Counselling, said about 6 per cent of students sought counselling each year. At Reading University, his service saw about 600 students annually. "Parents can help before university by ensuring kids spend more of their time away from home, and widen their circle of friends and people they regard as parental substitutes," he said. "In effect, one is inoculating them against homesickness."

He added: "The other thing that parents can do is encourage a year out. Not only does this give the kid a chance to make some money, but it also encourages them to get to know themselves a bit and build up resilience to the increasing pressures in universities."

Professor Gareth Williams, head of the Centre for Higher Education Studies at the Institute of Education in London, said there were huge variations in dropout rates among different types of student and university. As many as 50 per cent of part-time students fail to complete their course, while some former polytechnics had overall dropout rates of 30 per cent, he said.

"Our system is getting much more like a European system with mass entry and rapidly deteriorating staff/student ratios. Therefore it is not surprising that dropout rates are rising. We are moving towards a French system where they have a 50 per cent dropout rate."

REASONS FOR DROPPING OUT

LAST-MINUTE PANIC
Symptoms: grabbed place at last minute with no preparation and arrives disorientated, often with no accommodation.
Solution: prepare for Clearing by researching options and try to visit the university, explore area and meet tutors.

HOMESICKNESS
Symptoms: many students feel pangs of homesickness but some will suffer severely during the first term and also after going home for Christmas.
Solution: in the year or two leading up to university parents should ensure students spend more time away from home.

LATE DEVELOPER
Symptoms: student went to university because parents assumed they would go straight after school.
Solution: instead of blaming their child for not knowing what they want to do, parents should encourage them to develop a wider range of interests.

FINANCIAL PRESSURE
Symptoms: many students feel they have to do part-time work to make ends meet, to the detriment of academic work.
Solution: limit part-time employment (student union job clubs recommend no more than 15 hours a week). Welfare advisers can help to reschedule debts.

FAMILY CRISIS
Symptoms: bereavement, parental divorce or splitting from partner adds to disorientation.
Solution: campus counsellors and welfare advisers can help with emotional as well as financial problems.

Refugees find school too easy

By David Charter

FAMILIES evacuated from Montserrat are so disappointed with standards in English schools that they are organising weekend lessons for their children.

Saturday classes in London, Birmingham and Manchester have been set up for youngsters among the 3,000 refugees who fled the volcanic eruption on their Caribbean island.

Islanders from the British dependency say they have found their children are years ahead of classmates and have been horrified by the indiscipline of other pupils.

Montserrat's education system was based on traditional whole-class teaching of the type given to British children before the introduction of child-centred classroom policies in the 1960s and 1970s, which allowed pupils to set their own pace of learning. Teachers on Montserrat are still able to use corporal punishment and a smack with a ruler is often used.

Janice Panton, co-ordinator of the Montserrat Aid Committee, said children were settling in well at English schools but parents were worried they were not being stretched.

"Certain parents have mentioned to me that their children are ahead in many subjects, and from what I understand it spans the age groups," she said. "It could be because we concentrate on the basics.

"We are talking to local authorities and I am hoping that the issues parents and children here are facing are resolved at a local level."

Leading article, page 23

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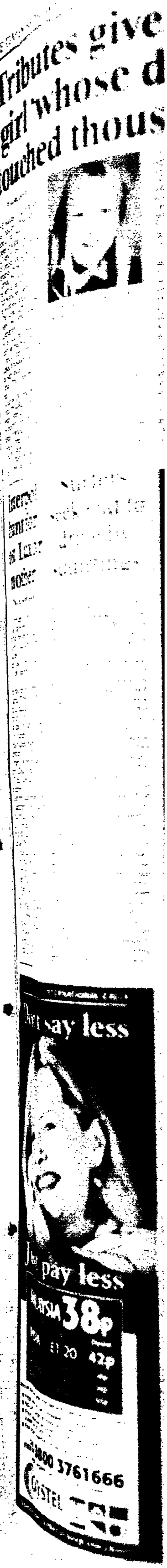

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Tributes given for girl 'whose death touched thousands'

By Adrian Lee

THE murder of Kate Bushell has touched thousands of people, the parents of the Exeter schoolgirl told a memorial service yesterday. About 800 people, including representatives from Devon and Cornwall Police, gathered for the service at St Thomas's High School in Exeter, where the 14-year-old was a pupil.

The dead girl's parents Jeremy, 44, and Suzanne, accompanied by their son, Tim, 16, said in a statement: "Kate's life touched hundreds of people, her death has touched thousands." As tributes were read, some of her friends were overcome by grief.

A team of 120 detectives are hunting the killer who cut the teenager's throat in a field a few hundred yards from her home in Exwick, near Exeter. She had been walking a neighbour's dog.

In their statement Mr and Mrs Bushell said that their daughter's death had "shaken the whole community but ripples of this horror can be turned to good. Either of us would prefer to have taken her place on November 15 but it was not to be. As a family we have no option but to live on, accepting the cruelty of this tragedy."

Kate: murdered while walking neighbour's dog

The foyer of the school was filled with floral tributes and there were hand-made cards of condolence from pupils of Exwick Middle School, which she had attended. Her last school timetable was also displayed, with examples of her embroidery and a book of condolence. Kate's life was shown in dozens of photographs from the family album, illustrating her interest in music, canoeing, climbing, camping and swimming.

Before and after the service, some of her favourite music was played, including 3T, Eternal and the Lighthouse Family song *Postcards from Heaven*. Three of her tutor group read a poem and a school group played a piece for the clarinet — one of the instruments Kate played, together with the saxophone.

Four young girl members of the Isca Fellowship, the religious group to which Kate belonged, performed a dance in tribute to her.

Detectives have received more than 2,000 calls from the public about Kate's killing, a record for any murder inquiry in Devon and Cornwall.

BARRY GOMER

Jeremy and Suzanne Bushell at their daughter's memorial service in Exeter yesterday: "Either of us would prefer to have taken her place"

Interpol hunt for lost Luxor mother

By Paul Whittaker

THE Foreign Office may ask overseas governments to exhume the bodies of victims of the Luxor massacre if there is no success in locating the remains of a British mother lost in an identification mix-up.

The search for the remains of Karina Turner, 24, an air hostess, is taking place on four continents with a formal request sent through Interpol that no funerals be held for overseas victims matching her description. It is not known how many of the 58 foreign tourists killed in the November 17 massacre have so far been buried.

A Foreign Office spokesman said authorities may look at the possibility of exhuming bodies overseas as a last resort, if all other efforts failed to trace Ms Turner's remains.

It was the second indignity suffered by the family after a coffin supposed to contain the body of Ms Turner's mother, Joan, 51, was found to contain that of a Swiss woman. The Foreign Office spokesman said it was hoped the body of Joan Turner — mistakenly sent to Switzerland — would be returned to Halifax, West Yorkshire, this week.

Surfers seek end to drive-by squirtings

By Simon de Bruxelles

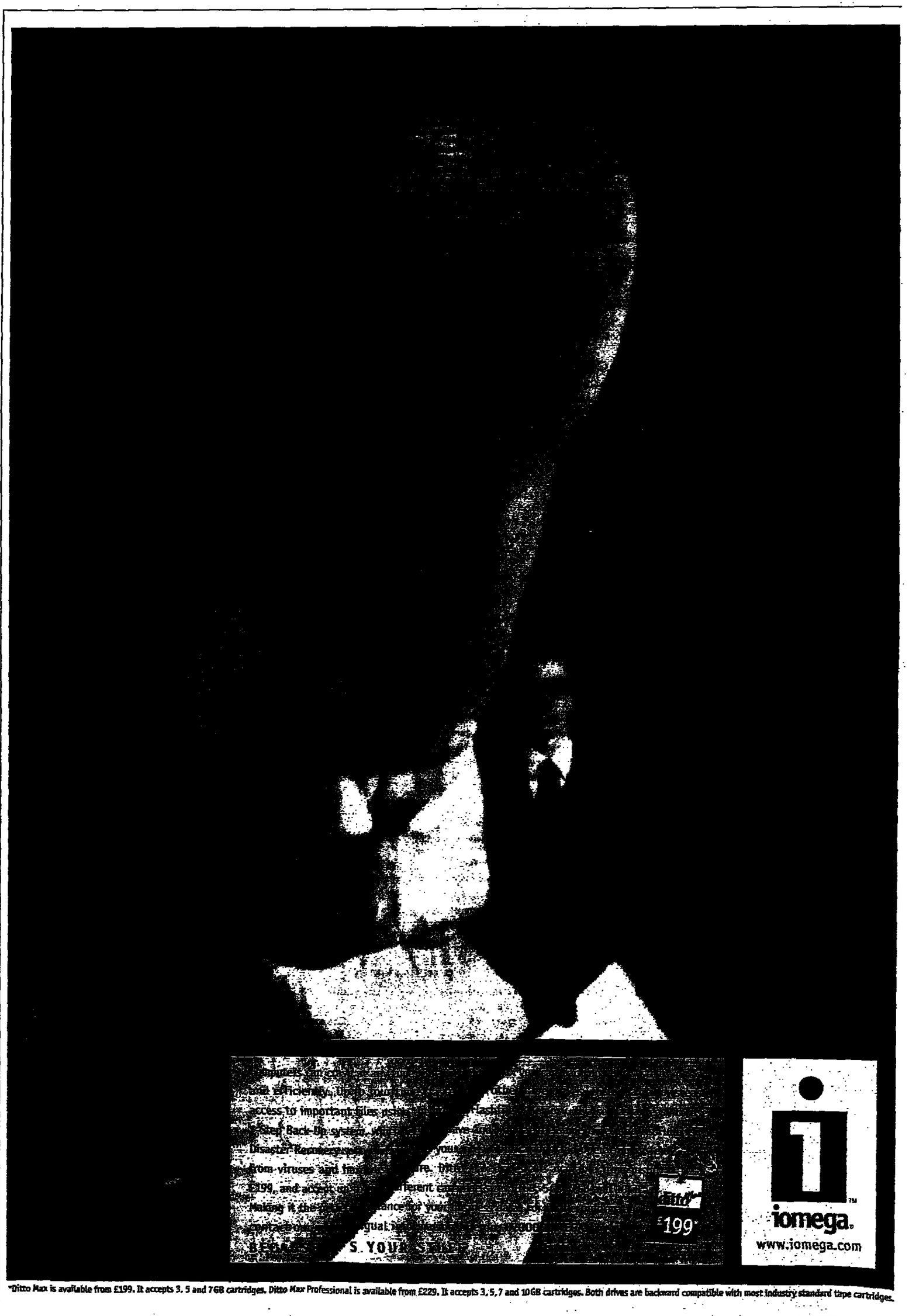
THE organisers of Britain's biggest surf festival have appealed for a ban on the sale of water guns after dozens of bystanders got caught in the crossfire last year.

Many of the 50,000 surfing and custom-car enthusiasts at the Run to the Sun event in Newquay, Cornwall, each spring bank holiday, engage in enormous water fights through the town, using pistols that fire powerful jets.

Police confiscated more than 100 of the pistols last year and there were many complaints by victims of the drive-by squirtings. Residents say they dare not venture out during the festival and that the pistols, which can cost up to £40 each, have been loaded with beer, paint, bleach and even urine.

The event's organisers last week took out a half-page advertisement in the local newspaper calling on shops not to stock the weapons. They are threatening to organise a boycott of shopkeepers who defy a voluntary ban.

Organiser Chris Christopheros is concerned that while the shopkeepers make the money, the festival gets the blame for the chaos.



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هكذا من الأصل

Spencer 'determined to clear his name in court'

Earl wants to give evidence after allegations that he told his mistress not to get fat, **Joanna Bale** reports

EARL Spencer is determined to continue with his divorce hearing this week, despite the threat of further allegations. Shelley-Anne Claircourt, his spokeswoman, denied speculation that he might opt for an out-of-court settlement to avoid the media scrutiny that continues to surround the hearing in Cape Town.

"He wants to put the record straight and clear his name," she said yesterday. "There have been some sensational allegations made under the protection of the court and he would like to reply to them in court."

Dozens more British newspaper and television journalists arrived in Cape Town at the weekend for the second week of the hearing, which promises further allegations from key witnesses.

Among those scheduled to testify against Lord Spencer are Chantal Collopy, his former mistress, and Countess Spencer's father, John Lockwood, a retired Civil Aviation Authority personnel manager who has never commented publicly on his daughter's marriage.

The earl is expected to give his side of the breakdown of the relationship later this week. The hearing is continuing to provide headline news in the South African media. Yesterday the South African *Sunday Times*, a respected broadsheet, carried a front-page interview with the earl's current girlfriend, the fashion editor and former model Josie Borain. In it she criticised Lady Spencer and Mrs Collopy for their "bitter attacks" on his character.

Mrs Collopy yesterday said that their affair ended when

Spencer: could face legal bill of £600,000

he told her that he would never accept her two children despite having proposed marriage.

Mrs Collopy, who is also expected to give evidence this week, said in a television interview yesterday that he made her feel insecure about her looks because he told her not to get fat.

She told *Sky News*: "Just before I got divorced he had a panic attack and said that he could not offer me a future. I was very confused.

"We had an argument and he said: 'I must let you know I will never accept your children' and I said that was the end of the relationship."

Mrs Collopy, 37, said she was devastated when the affair ended. She said: "I was now divorced with no one. I suddenly started feeling, as I had done before the relationship ended, very insecure about the way I looked and started worrying about my weight because he had mentioned to me that I should not get fat."

As the earl spent yesterday preparing to give evidence at the hearing at Cape Town's Supreme Court, legal experts estimated that his costs for the case will exceed the £300,000 that he has offered Lady Spencer as a settlement.

If the court rules in favour of Lady Spencer's wishes, to get divorced in London, where settlements are more generous, he will have to pay her legal costs and could be faced with a total bill of about £600,000. Mrs Collopy, who has signed a five-figure deal with the *News of the World*, said on television yesterday that she joined forces with Lady Spencer after realising that she could help her to get a larger divorce settlement.

She said: "I said to her [Lady Spencer]: 'whatever you do, do not get divorced in this country.' She looked at me and said: 'I am trying not to'. I said that I would try to help because we were both in a similar situation."

The earl has employed the British QC Nicholas Mostyn, as well as the South African barrister Leslie Weinhove. Lady Spencer has employed Jeremy Gauntlett, South Africa's leading barrister, and the British QC Jeremy Posnasky. Florence Baron, QC, has also been advising her.

According to legal experts, each QC is estimated to be charging a £30,000 brief fee, plus £2,000 a day for the hearing which could run into a third week. Mr Mostyn and Mr Posnasky will also be given generous expenses of around £20,000 each.

NOORIS SLAMDIEN

Mrs Collopy alleged that Lord Spencer said he would never accept her children

Blair supported tax challenge on Diana estate

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales secured the backing of Tony Blair for a legal challenge to the £8 million inheritance tax bill on the legacy of Diana, Princess of Wales, it has emerged.

But the Prince, after consulting advisers, decided against supporting the tax avoidance scheme that was devised to try to protect the £20 million left to Princes William and Harry.

The Treasury was also unhappy, it was disclosed yesterday, about a legal challenge that it feared could be a public relations disaster for the monarchy.

A Buckingham Palace source said last night: "Downing Street was not pushing the idea but merely confirmed that if the Prince decided to go ahead he would have the backing of the Prime Minister. Downing Street believed any presentational problems could be overcome.

"The Treasury was more concerned about the proposed scheme but in the end it was the Prince, in conjunction with the executors of the will, who decided not to go ahead with the idea."

The legacy of the Princess will be the subject of court proceedings within a month when John Major, as guardian of the finances of the young Princes, seeks more powers to protect the intellectual copyright on the estate.

The action is designed to ensure that income from commercial spin-offs benefits the boys. Such sales include an 8 in plastic doll of the late Princess being sold by Harrods for £39.95. The doll, in a satin replica of her wedding dress, is sold in the store's trademark green box.

The models went on sale before her death, there are no plans to remove them and no proceeds are being given to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Last month Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods owner, whose son Dodi died with the Princess, banned the sale of Andrew Morton's updated biography, which was described as profiteering.

Musical tributes to the late Princess will dominate the Christmas charts. Mr Major is demanding that proceeds from the CD *Diana, Princess of Wales — Tribute* go to her sons. He regards the collection of 36 songs as the first target in moves to establish them as the owners of their mother's image.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

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Mandelson in attempt to head off pit closures

By Nicholas Wood and Alasdair Murray

MINISTERS were making strenuous efforts last night to draw up a rescue plan to head off a crisis in the coal industry.

Amid warnings that 5,000 jobs and at least five pits are at risk, Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio, and Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, are involved in the behind-the-scenes Whitehall operation. Mr Mandelson called in Mr Powell last week after witnessing a tense Commons debate on the future of the industry.

Three ministers — Richard Caborn, Minister for the Regions, John Battle, the Energy Minister, and Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister — are taking part in talks aimed at averting job losses and pit closures.

Well-placed sources suggested that within a week ministers would be able to come up with proposals designed to avert a politically damaging round of cuts. They ruled out direct state subsidies for the privately-owned mining industry.

Curbs on opencast mining and the "dash for gas", bigger coal stockpiles at power stations and state support for "clean-coal technology" electricity plants are believed to be among the measures being considered.

Hundreds of angry miners are expected to besiege Westminster on Wednesday when the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee begins an inquiry into the problems facing the privatised industry.

To the anger of Labour MPs, Arthur Scargill, the President of the National Union of Mineworkers, is expected to boycott the hearing to be attended by unions and representatives of the coal industry. Some sources said that Mr Scargill would not sit down with leaders of the breakaway Union of Democratic Miners. Others said that he was angry because he would not get more than 25 minutes before the committee.

The crisis has been triggered by RJB Mining, the private company that owns most of the nation's 23 pits. It has given a warning that its failure to secure enough contracts with the electricity generators National Power and Powergen threatens another round of closures. The power companies say it is charging too much for its coal and ministers are resisting its call for subsidies.

Alan Meale, Labour MP for the mining area of Mansfield, yesterday attacked Richard Budge, the RJB chief executive, accusing him of trying to "bludgeon" the Government into releasing subsidies by threatening closures.

"He doesn't give a damn about the coalfield communities and is using them to extract more profits," Mr Meale said, pointing to RJB plans to invest in opencast mines in Australia and accusing it of failing to invest at home while making profits of £200 million a year.

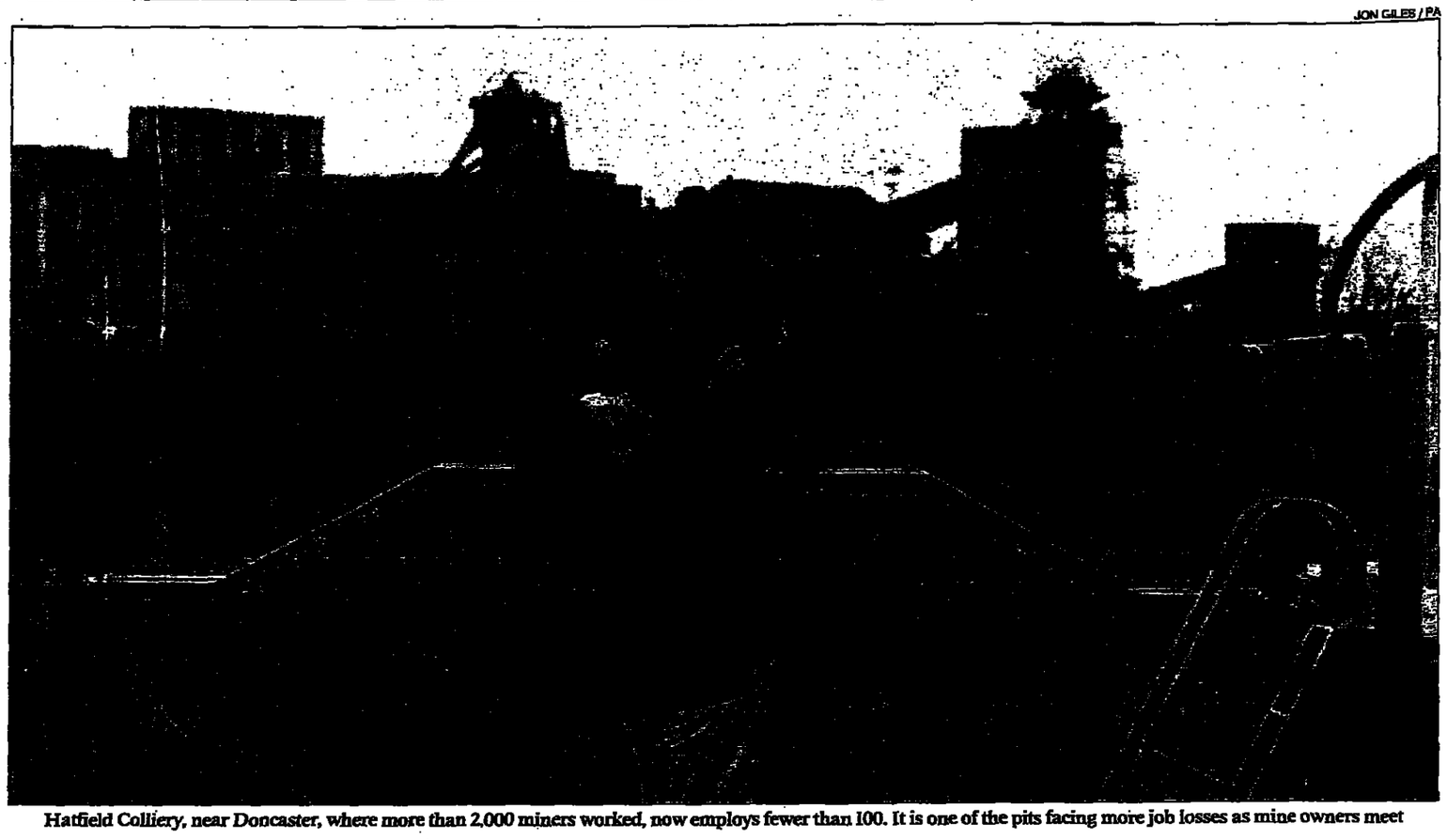
The board of RJB Mining is due to meet today to decide the future of up to five mines and 5,000 jobs. In a Commons debate, John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, will claim that government refusal to help the coal industry is putting 50,000 jobs at risk.

RJB said its directors would be reviewing all options at the meeting and that it would be "the start of the process" that might ultimately lead to job losses.

The company yesterday called on the Government to begin a review of the electricity market. Stuart Oliver, spokesman for RJB, said: "The odds are still stacked against coal."

The company rejected accusations that it is using the threat of job losses to try to win government support. It came under renewed pressure yesterday when it was revealed that a rival company, Midlands Mining, will consider buying pits that RJB closes.

JON GILES / PA



Hatfield Colliery, near Doncaster, where more than 2,000 miners worked, now employs fewer than 100. It is one of the pits facing more job losses as mine owners meet

Meeting sifts claims to Nazi gold

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

HISTORIANS, Holocaust survivors and politicians from more than 40 countries arrive in London today to begin three days of investigations into the murky secrets of Hitler's trade in gold.

On the eve of the meeting evidence has surfaced suggesting that long after the Second World War bankers and intelligence officers destroyed German documents relating to Nazi gold sales to neutral countries.

Microfilms of documents from the postwar forerunner of Germany's Bundesbank surfaced last week in Vienna, giving details of wartime gold transactions by the Reichsbank.

The files, turned over to the Bank der Deutschen Länder by the Americans in 1948, mysteriously disappeared in the 1950s. Only some poor quality microfilms were found in America. But last week 22 good quality microfilms of more than 700 documents from the Reichsbank were discovered by German researchers. The documents are believed to show the scale of Nazi sales of gold to Switzerland and other neutral countries.

The conference starting tomorrow in Lancaster House will attempt a sober evaluation of this trade, as well as determining how much gold was looted from the vaults of occupied countries and how much was melted down from the teeth and jewellery of Holocaust victims.

The spotlight will inevitably be on Switzerland, which bought the bulk of German gold. But other neutral countries involved included Sweden, Spain, Portugal and Turkey. Since a Foreign Office report in September last year revived interest in the gold, the neutral countries have opened sealed archives and examined their wartime records.

Six organisations representing the main victims of the Nazi quest for gold are travelling to London. Five are from Jewish groups amd one represents European Romanies.

Some £40 million of gold, stored in the Bank of England and America's Federal Reserve Bank, has still not been distributed. The governments of Britain, France and America, which make up the Tripartite Gold Commission, want the conference to endorse their plan to give the money directly to a fund to benefit Holocaust survivors.

MPs join ex-PoWs' pay battle

Richard Duce on a £20m fight between the MoD and camp veterans

A LONG-running fight between former British prisoners of war and the Defence Ministry over "lost pay" worth £20 million will be raised in parliament today.

Captured officers who spent time in Italian and German PoW camps during the Second World War say they have been cheated out of money that was docked from their salaries during their incarceration.

For 17 years campaigners representing more than 8,000 officers have attempted to have the money returned, not to individuals but into a fund for needy ex-servicemen or forces widows. After a recent investigation the MoD has rejected their claim but Group Captain Alec Ingle, DFC, a former RAF pilot, is determined to fight on.

He says he has cross party support and today two Conservative MPs — Christopher Gill (Ludlow) and Nick Gibb (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton) — have tabled questions on the issue. They will want to know why evidence from former PoWs was omitted by the ministry in rejecting the claim.

Group Captain Ingle, 81, who was held in Stalag Luft 3 in Silesia, said: "We didn't give up during the Battle of Britain and we don't intend to give up now."

The lengthy dispute hinges on the Geneva Convention, under which officers were supposed to receive camp pay from their captors to cover the cost of food, cigarettes and purchases from camp shops. Campaigners say the sums were wrongly deducted by the British Government.

The MoD accepts it no longer has their pay records but its report rejecting the compensation claim said: "The weight of the evidence that survives shows there to have been a proper pay policy and a system for the adjustment of pay accounts."

☐ The Queen Mother has attacked the sale of war memorials from former churches and chapels to antique dealers in Britain and America.

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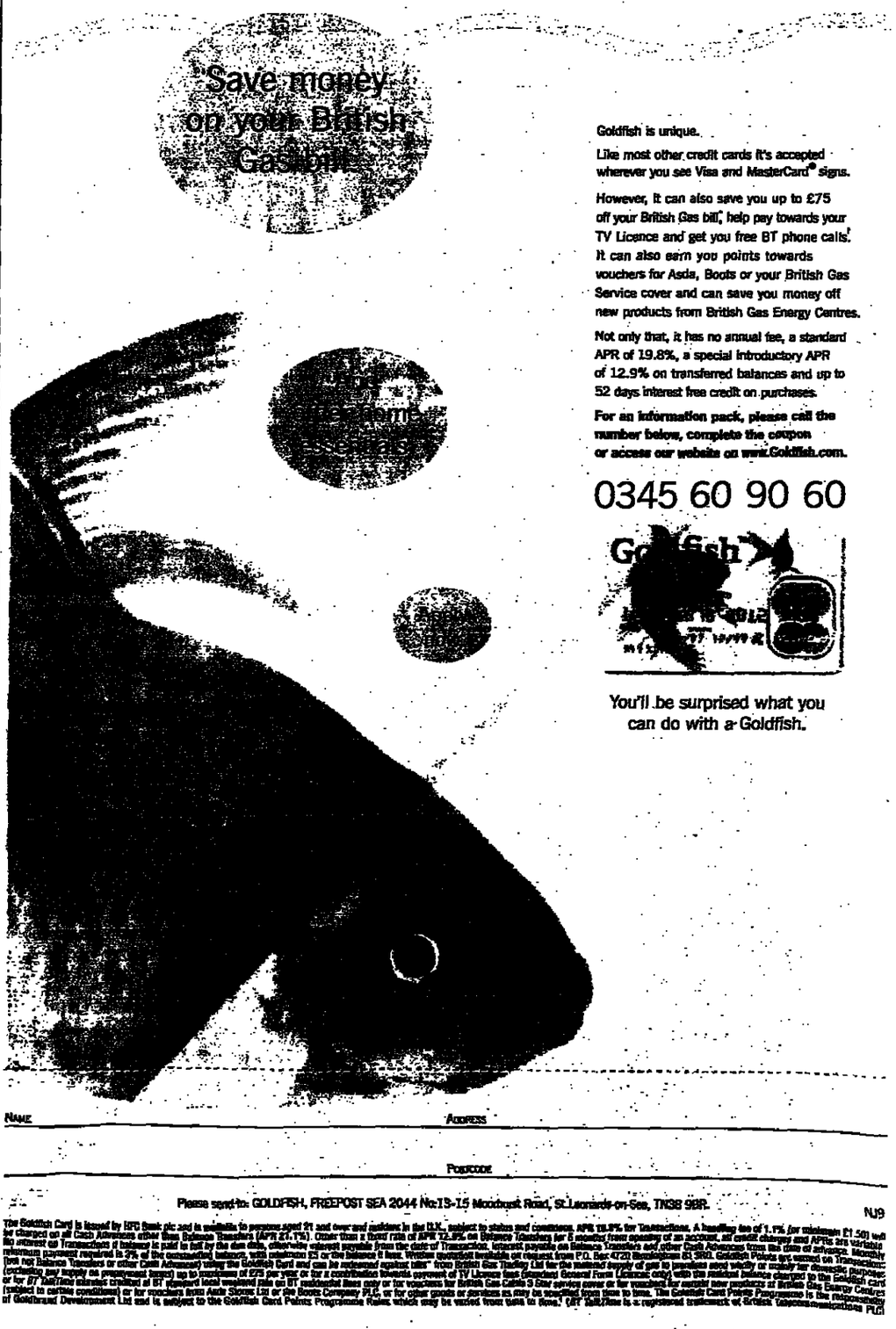

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Opera chiefs may bow out before MPs' bad review

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

RESIGNATIONS from the Royal Opera House board and management were predicted last night by MPs in advance of Wednesday's highly critical parliamentary report on the company.

The findings of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport have been described as a "devastating critique", "uncomfortable reading" and "radical" as MPs have sought to make sense of the worst financial crisis facing the Royal Opera House in its 51 years.

Committee members have been sworn to secrecy about the recommendations, which must first be published in Parliament, but one said last night: "It is pure Kaufman at his best" — referring to the forthright language used in the report by Gerald Kaufman, the committee chairman.

Lord Chadlington, chairman of the Royal Opera Board, who is better known as Peter Gummer, chairman-founder of the public relations company Shandwick, was unavailable for comment last night.

He and other board members and management will be allowed to see the report tomorrow. They include Vivienne Duffield, daughter of the late tycoon Charles Clore, who is worth an estimated £40 million and one of the opera house's greatest patrons. In July she and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover donated £2 million to keep the company going.

Other directors are Michael Berkeley, the composer, Robert Gavron, chairman of the Guardian media group, and Carolyn Newbigging, chairman of the Friends of Covent Garden.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, may also be criticised for his handling of the opera house crisis and for approving the appointment of Mary Allen as the new chief executive at the request of Lord Chadlington instead of authorising an advertisement for the post.

There was speculation among MPs that individuals may decide to walk away from the opera house's finances before the report's publication. Mr Kaufman will hold a press conference on its findings on Wednesday morning.

During committee hearings he described the opera house finances as a shambles, told the management "You are running things incompetently" and added: "The Arts Council would be nuts to give you an extra penny until you have sorted yourselves out."

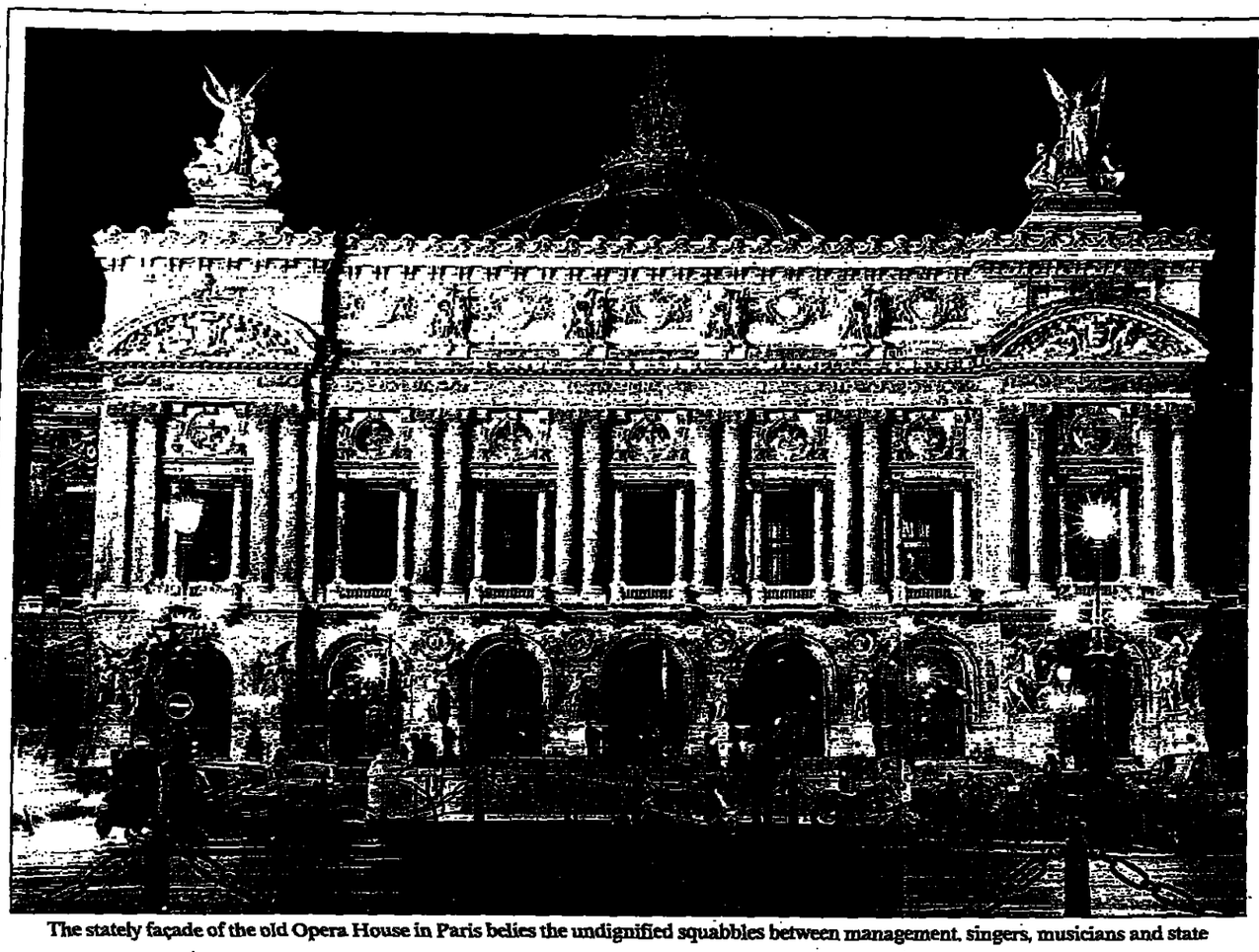
The company has received £78 million National Lottery money and an annual subsidy of more than £14.5 million but has an operating deficit of £4.5 million, which is expected to double by the end of 1999. Last month a second rescue package this year saved the house from insolvency.

Bailiffs call for overdue rent cheque

BAILIFFS visited the Royal Opera House last week demanding immediate payment of overdue rent (Adrian Lee writes). A cheque, thought to be for tens of thousands of pounds, was handed over to prevent assets being seized from its offices at Covent Garden.

The opera house denied it was facing a new crisis. The cheque was several weeks late, admitted Keith Cooper, a spokesman for the opera house. "Whenever you have a financial scare, people are keen to get their money. I would imagine this was just a case of someone who was determined to get their money getting heavy."

He described it as an isolated incident. "Our cash flow has to be managed very carefully," said Mr Cooper.



The stately façade of the old Opera House in Paris belies the undignified squabbles between management, singers, musicians and state

French melody descends into discord

Adam Sage reports on dramatic developments across the Channel

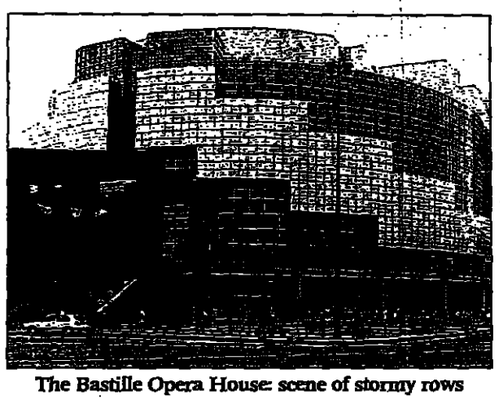
FRENCH opera, too, is in crisis, with its stars deserting amid histrionic rows, finances in the red and administrators accused of corruption.

The heavily subsidised opera houses, which have provided enough backstage melodrama in recent years to become a national joke, talk of an imminent catastrophe. They blame the Government, the judiciary and the public. They do not blame themselves.

French media last week reported that three directors of the National Opera in Lyons, almost the only house in France to enjoy a reputation for quality and financial responsibility, are under judicial investigation. Louis Erlo, Jean-Pierre Brossman and Jacques Hédouin are accused of signing secret contracts giving them the rights to recordings made by the opera's musicians. The allegations surfaced in a report last year by the regional public accounts committee, which said the three men enjoyed £300,000 salaries and lavish expense accounts.

Olivier Ducatel, a musicians' union representative in Lyons, said: "We were always told our records sold badly, until we discovered that our bosses were getting the money from the sales."

The claims are damaging at a time when opera directors are pressing Catherine Trautmann, the culture minister, for more money. In an interview last month Hugues Gall, director of the Bastille and Garnier opera houses in Paris, said: "French society in general, and the politicians in particular, don't take music seriously. We are heading for a catastrophe." He admitted that his two opera houses already received a state subsidy of £60 million a year but maintained that "my budget is tight". That has not always been the case at the Bastille Opera House. Built for £400 million on the orders of President Mitterrand, it ran up huge debts and became notorious for rows between stars and management.



The Bastille Opera House: scene of stormy rows

Since M Gall took over in 1995 he has stopped the financial losses, largely with state aid. But the disputes go on. This month Patrick Dupond, a star of the Bastille ballet corps, was sacked for visiting the Cannes Film Festival during rehearsals.

The French press said that other dancers were likely to leave because the Bastille's salaries of £60,000 a year are far less than those paid in other Western countries. *Le Monde* talked of a "haemorrhage of stars". M Gall replied: "I take people on. I get rid of them. I'm here to take the flak."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yates flies in asking for privacy to mourn

Paula Yates returned to Britain from Australia yesterday, asking to be left alone to grieve in peace after the funeral of her rock star lover Michael Hutchence.

Carrying their daughter, 16-month-old Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, she avoided photographers at Heathrow Airport and was driven to a secret destination.

Her spokesman, Anthony Burton, said: "Ms Yates is resting and will not be returning to her home in the foreseeable future."

Fatal pursuit

An investigation has begun after a motorist was killed during a police pursuit in Gateshead, Tyne & Wear. Geoffrey Bellamy, 59, was thrown from his Vauxhall Cavalier before it plunged into the River Derwent.

Thrust auction

An auction of spare parts, clothes and other items used in the Thrust world land-speed record raised £50,000. The sale, at Farnborough, Hampshire, was held to help to meet huge debts incurred by the British team.

Vigil for Aids

Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, will read a message from Tony Blair at a vigil in London to mark the 10th World Aids Day. Tributes will be paid to Diana, Princess of Wales, patron of the National Aids Trust since 1991.

Warm welcome

Thirty-seven WinterWatch shelters set up by Crisis, the charity for the homeless, open today to provide beds, food, medicine, advice and companionship until the end of March for up to 4,000 people who sleep on the streets.

Patagonia patter

A three-year project to teach Welsh in Patagonia has been approved by Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary. The £40,000 scheme, run by the British Council, aims to double the number of learners attending Welsh classes there to 700.

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Ministers give their French a polish

But Blair urged to stick to English in EU meetings

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

TONY BLAIR may consider himself fluent in French but senior officials have told him that he should use English for European Union business. They told him: "Your French is good, but not that good."

The directive has been issued by civil servants and diplomats preparing for the British presidency of the European Union next month. Crash courses in French, and some improvement courses, are being given to ministers and civil servants. About 150 of them have already signed up with the language school Linguarama.

During EU meetings, Mr Blair and other ministers must use their mother tongue and have been told to avoid showing off linguistic skills. One senior source said: "There is absolutely no room for doubt on the clarity of meaning in these meetings."

The aim is to spare Britain any gaffes during the six months of the presidency. Officials will recall the embarrassment when President Kennedy ventured a few words in German. His audience collapsed in laughter because he had compared himself to a type of doughnut.

Officials are adamant that it is better for ministers to be "well briefed and up with the substance of meetings and decisions" than to worry about conversing in French. English and French are both working languages for EU business, although no formal meetings take place without an interpreter. Outside official business, however, ministers and civil servants are being encouraged to use conversational French to help seal the *entente cordiale*.

The British must understand, for example, that EMU (European Monetary Union) for them is referred to as *Loomy* (*L'UME*) in French. It is important that ministers and officials can read a French text because minutes of meetings are usually first available in French.

Members of the Foreign Office are exempt from the lessons because diplomats are already expected to have sufficiently good French to be able to chair a meeting in the language.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, who has a busy European agenda, is one of those who have asked for help. Although the English-only directive applies to him, he said last week: "It is essential to speak French to communicate in Europe."

Probably the easiest lesson for him is that CAP (Common Agriculture Policy) is known as *La PAC* (*Politique Agricole Commune*). But he will have to learn specialist agriculture phrases such as "set aside", which is *la mise en jachère*, and "subsidy", which is *une subvention*.

Tim Allan, a special adviser at No 10, is also brushing up his French to ensure that he can be of more use to Mr Blair. There are one or two verbs in French, however, that can cause difficulty for both English and French delegates. There are known as *faux amis* or "false friends" and can produce some howlers of misinterpretation. *Décevoir*, for example, in French, means to be disappointed or sorry. But English speakers sometimes confuse it with the English to deceive and sometimes believe the French might be insulting them with unfounded allegations of deceit. Similarly *prétendre* means to assert or to maintain but some English speakers confuse it with the English to pretend or to fake.

Confusion can provoke quite virulent reaction. For example, the sentence: "*Les Britanniques prétendent que le boeuf est maintenant sain*" — "the British claim beef is now safe to eat" — can easily be misconstrued as "the British are now feigning that their beef is safe to eat".

ANTHONY UPTON

Patricia Le Ret, a French teacher with Linguarama, takes Jack Cunningham through his paces. About 150 have signed up with the school

Germans 'will win war with a single currency'

By Nicholas Wood

HOSTILITY towards Germany underpins much of the public opposition towards a European single currency, according to new research carried out for the Conservative Party.

"We are different from them and we'd end up being ruled by Germany," was typical of the comments made by six focus groups totalling 60 voters.

Antipathy to Germany was strongest among the older members of the groups — which were divided between the over-45s and the under-35s — but was also evident among the young.

However there was a fatalistic belief that Britain would eventually be dragged into embracing the euro. One Tory aide said: "There is a strong sense that, if all the other countries went in and it succeeded, we might be forced to join it."

The findings suggest that opposition to a single currency — 50 per cent against and 39 per cent in favour, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Sun* — is not deeply rooted. The majority of people dislike the idea and fear that it would destroy national identity but, at the same time, admit that they do not know enough about the venture — due to start in January 1999.

The furore over William Hague's decision to rule out the euro for ten years — which led to a Shadow Cabinet resignation — has also failed to register with voters. Few people had a clear idea of Conservative policy.

When they were told that "key decisions about the British economy would be taken by a new central bank in Germany", one member of the older group said: "That would mean they would get through a single currency what they could not get through the war."

Journey to 'people's Europe' will begin at Waterloo

Prime Minister will use presidency to set his vision on track, writes Charles Bremner

THE international rail terminal at Waterloo will star in the Government's latest burst of stage-managed symbolism this week when Tony Blair appears there to unveil his plans for forging a "people's Europe" during Britain's turn in the EU presidency.

The Prime Minister's image-makers picked the high-tech terminus of the Eurostar service to embody the "Cool Britannia" that Mr Blair wants to project to the Continent as he seeks to "reconnect the peoples of Europe with the European Union". The site for Friday's media stunt was spurred by the success of the Canary Wharf tower as the venue for last month's Anglo-French summit.

Britain's new "people" rhetoric is raising eyebrows in Continental goverments, which long ago diagnosed and tried to repair the EU's image problem. However, there is widespread acknowledgment in Brussels, Paris and Bonn that the Blair crusade is proving popular in the unemployment-plagued states.

Mr Blair's aim is to spread the gospel of "tough compassion" and spur reforms in the welfare-dependent states of the Continent. It is also aimed at limiting the damage from Britain's self-imposed exclusion from monetary union.

A big test on the monetary front comes in Brussels today when Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, tries to convince fellow ministers to limit the scope of a planned "Euro-council", which will group the states inside the single currency from 1999. Britain is fighting a rearguard action, along with Greece, Denmark and Sweden — the other likely non-participants in monetary union — to stop the new council sidelining them from the EU's economic management.

Amid the razzmatazz at Waterloo on Friday, Mr Blair will explain how he aims put a British stamp on the union by focusing on employment, crime and the environment. He will also declare that a top priority for the British presidency will be to launch the negotiations to bring the former Soviet bloc states into the Union. Mr Cook spent last week proclaiming Britain's goodwill message in Budapest, Prague and Warsaw.

London would do everything it could to speed the EU membership of these states, plus Slovenia and Estonia, after it starts the entry negotiations in March, he promised. "Britain will fight for the enlargement of the European Union," Mr Cook said.

British enthusiasm for pushing the EU's frontier eastward contrasts with growing qualms in the big EU states as they calculate the huge costs and danger of "diluting" cherished projects such as the Common Agriculture Policy and regional aid.

Mr Cook's team believe they conveyed the message that Britain is an alternative and equal partner to Germany, the powerhouse that dominates the economies of the east. With skilful diplomacy, the Government believes, Britain can shrug off the handicap of non-membership of the euro and cast itself as the leader of a more outward-looking Greater Europe.

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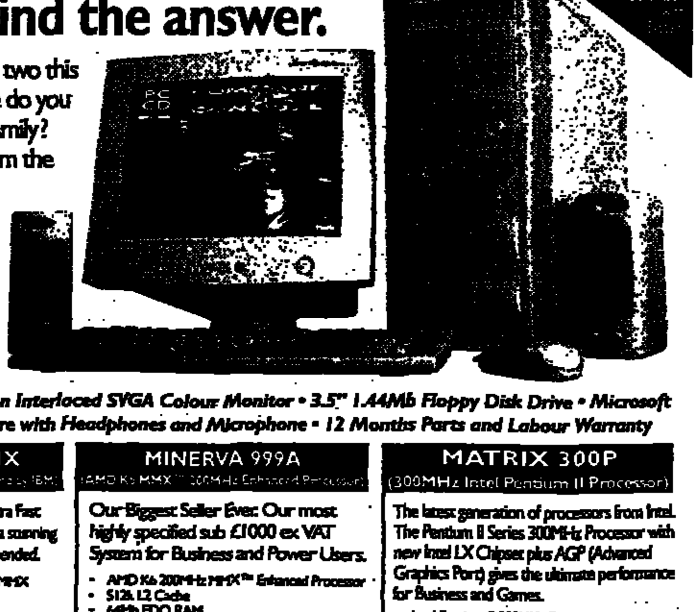

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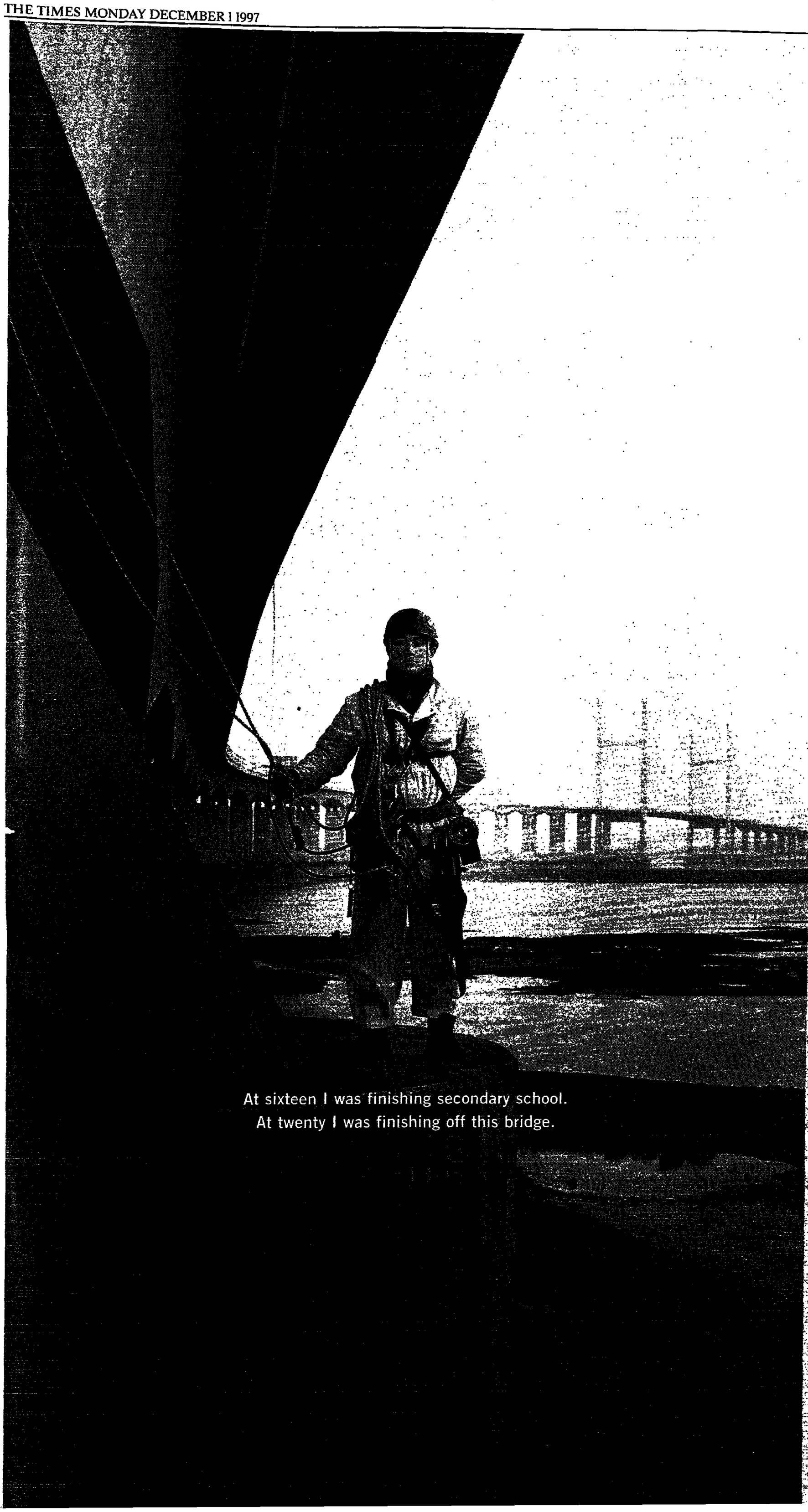

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Clinic shut over allegations of infected sperm

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FERTILITY clinics in Italy were inundated with calls from patients at the weekend after the arrest of a gynaecologist on charges of knowingly inseminating women with infected sperm.

Luca Mencaglia, 43, and his team at a clinic in Florence are also alleged to have used women prostitutes as egg donors, and to have "illegally traded in sperm and eggs" by paying donors.

Police shut the Centro Florence clinic, and raided 30 artificial insemination centres to which it regularly supplied sperm for test-tube conceptions. Six were closed immediately. Dr Mencaglia and three colleagues — a doctor, a biologist and an anaesthetist — have been charged with "knowingly attempting to cause an epidemic", fraud, and "bodily injury". They deny the allegations.

Investigating magistrates said they were focusing in particular on one sperm donor who had been found to be suffering from hepatitis B, hepatitis C, herpes and other viruses. Hepatitis C can cause liver disease, and even death. Magistrates said the man had given 42 samples of sperm over a four-year period. The infected donor's sperm had supplied a thousand female patients, and there was a "high risk" that they had in turn transmitted infections to their children and husbands or partners, magistrates said.

Police said the Florence sperm bank was first suspected when it advertised for donors in newspapers. The sperm donor at the centre of the allegations said he had been told by officials at the Florence clinic to "deny everything", but had "confessed all" to police.

There has been a boom in fertility clinics in Italy, where the birth rate is one of the lowest in the world, but many are not properly regulated. One woman who gave eggs to the clinic said she told doctors that she had cancer surgery, but this was brushed aside. Emma Cosentino, the public prosecutor in Florence, said that the "interests of public health were subordinated to the profit motive".

Dr Mencaglia said the charges were a "nightmare". "Why would we have continued to use a sick donor at the risk not only of harming our patients but also of compromising our entire business?" he said.

TOMAS TUREK / EPA

Vaclav Klaus, the outgoing Czech Prime Minister, appears at a window at his party headquarters to urge a crowd of slogan-chanting supporters to calm down

Klaus resigns as scandal smashes Czech coalition

FROM EMMA MCCLUNE IN PRAGUE

VACLAV KLAUS, the former golden boy of the "Czech economic miracle", resigned as Prime Minister over the weekend after his three-party coalition Government collapsed under the strain of a party funding scandal.

In a television speech yesterday, Mr Klaus denied all allegations of corruption and promised to help President Havel with a speedy formation of a new administration, although the former Prime Minister will not be included in the new Cabinet.

The resignation came in the wake of a string of ministerial resignations last week and a great deal of finger-pointing from former political allies.

By last Friday, several ministers — including key coalition partners — had resigned or threatened to pull the plug on the coalition after it emerged that a large investor in a privatised Czech steel company had donated huge sums to Mr Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (ODS) before last year's elections. Yesterday, Mr Havel was holding meetings with leading politicians to decide on a new government structure. Most likely, no new leader or Cabinet will emerge until the ODS holds a party conference later this month.

The author of both the country's privatisation process and the 1993 split of Czechoslovakia said that he had nothing to apologise for.

Havel: holding talks to find new government

Leading article, page 23

'Dumbing down' duo turned off

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE belching, grunting, giggling duo known as Beavis and Butt-head, who personified the gormlessness of Generation X, have ended their five-year run on American television to the great relief of parents across the nation.

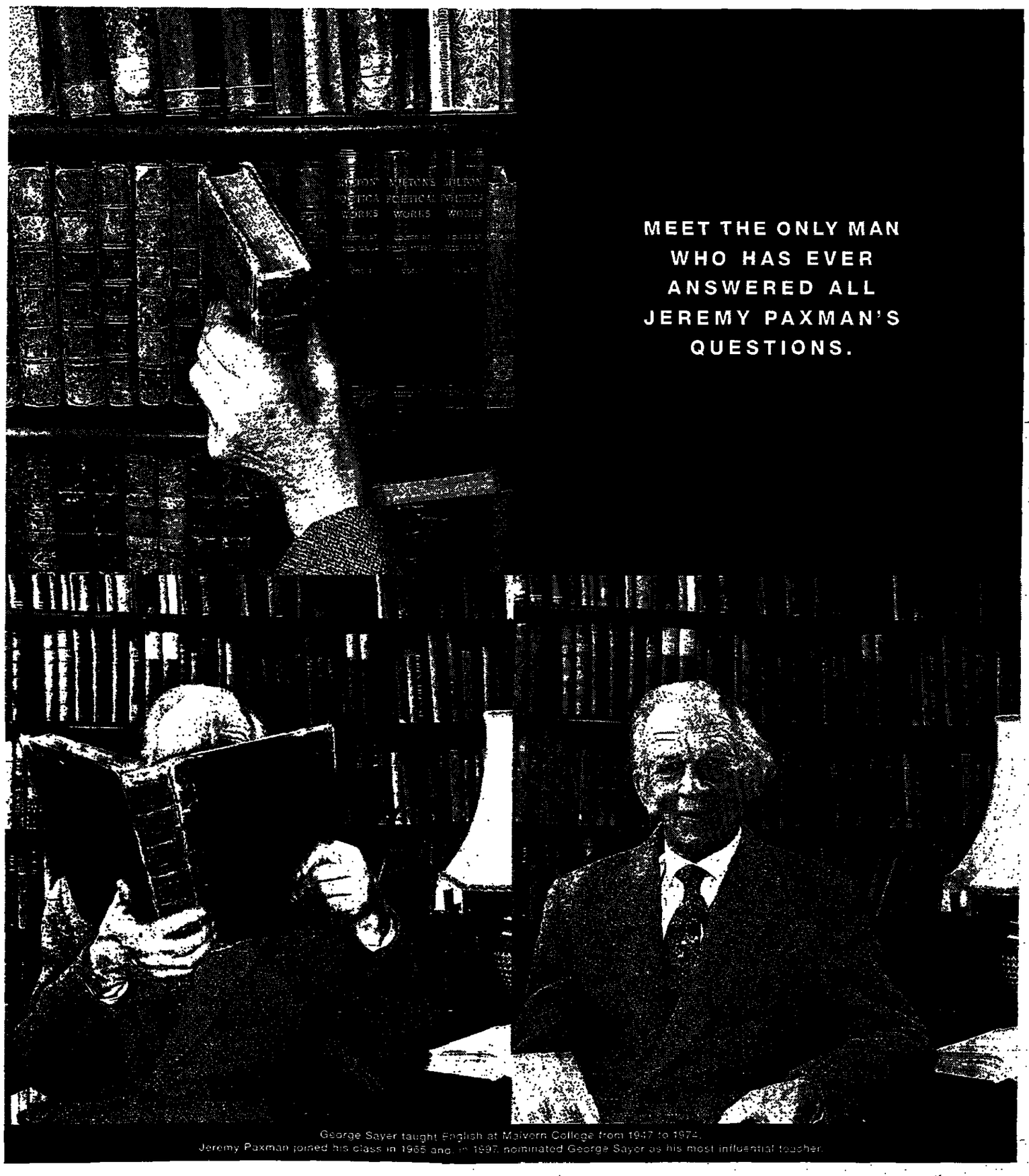
During their shows on the MTV cable channel, the cartoon couch potatoes did little more than poke fun at rock-music videos, declaring: "That's cool" or "This sucks". Yet the teenage delinquents clearly expressed a deep and ugly truth about American youth that made them instant celebrities, not to say role models, among the high-school set. Their adolescent antics have already spawned the movie *Beavis and Butt-head Do America*, three books and an assortment of clothing, toys, video games and other spin-offs.

TV morons: Beavis and Butt-head

"There is something kind of liberating about complete losers too dumb to realise what losers they are," says their creator, Mike Judge, 34, who modelled the pair on his own "dateless" teenage years. "They're just 14-year-old teenage metal heads who haven't much of a life."

The two made their first appearance on MTV in an animated short, *Liquid Television*, and in 220 episodes of their own show won fans as diverse as the conservative pundit Rush Limbaugh and the comedian David Letterman before wrapping up their television career.

The cultural studies departments of America's great universities will no doubt devote considerable energy to discerning the sociological significance of these unabashed morons. To some, their inarticulate ravings represent the "dumbing down" of America. To others, their jokes about women's breasts express a wider backlash against political correctness. The main reason for their success must be that Beavis and Butt-head represent a large part of MTV's viewership, sex-crazed boys who mis-spend their youth by sitting around in front of the television.



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Crisis in Pakistan increases fears of army rule

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S army generals held an emergency meeting yesterday, fuelling fears of a military takeover as worsening power struggles between the President and the Prime Minister have led to constitutional and political paralysis.

In the most vitriolic attack yet, President Leghari accused Nawaz Sharif in a letter of orchestrating an assault on the Supreme Court last week and said that he would not tolerate what he called the rule of the jungle. "Pakistan is not a property of any individual of those ruling it," he said.

The President said evidence suggested that the attack on the court was inspired by elements within the Government. He asked the Prime Minister to provide army protection to Sajjad Eli Shah, the Chief Justice, and other judges as the Government had failed to maintain law and order in the capital.

Thousands of Sharif supporters on Friday stormed the Supreme Court and forced Mr Chief Justice Shah and other judges, who were hearing a contempt of court case against the Prime Minister, to flee.

In a letter to General Jahangir Karamad, the army Chief of Staff, the Chief Justice said he was compelled to seek his help as he had no trust in the police and other security agencies under the Government's control.

The crisis has further deepened as Mr Chief Justice Shah yesterday accused the Prime Minister of engineering a split in the judiciary to prevent the Supreme Court from proceeding with his trial on contempt and corruption charges. Mr Sharif could be removed from power if found guilty.

In a nationwide speech on television yesterday, the Prime Minister accused the President and the Chief Justice of undermining his Government. "They have done a great crime against the people ... I will not allow the people to become a victim to this conspiracy," he said.

KAMAL KISHORE / REUTERS

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Indian Prime Minister and leader of the hardline Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, holding strategy talks yesterday in Delhi with allies, aimed at forming a new coalition after the fall of Inder Kumar Gujral's administration

Old partners seek new Delhi alliance

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S latest political shambles will force the country into its second general election in less than two years unless a new coalition government — the fourth in 18 months, starts to emerge from negotiations this week. The turmoil is a calamity for the economic reform programme, which is now effectively halted.

President Narayanan will decide whether any of the claims to form coalition governments are viable. He began consultations yesterday, starting with the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), feared by most Muslims for its associations with Hindu extremists. The party, which has attempted to improve its image, is becoming increasingly popular among mainstream Hindus.

Officially the BJP favours new elections in the belief it will perform strongly, but unofficially it is approaching several parties for support, and hopes to convince the President it can assemble a credible coalition. The odds are against it, however. All but a few political organisations regard the BJP as a pariah for its past persecution of Muslims.

The discredited Congress party will have its turn today to demonstrate to the President that it can form a coalition. It brought down the outgoing Government on the pretext that it included a Tamil political party linked to the Tamil Tiger rebels in Sri Lanka and the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, India's former Prime Minister.

The link has long been known: it was resurrected recently by the Jain Commission, which conducted an inconclusive investigation into the murder. That gave Congress the excuse it had been seeking to topple the administration.

The party may have miscalculated. It thought it would capture support from members of the defeated coalition, but so far only one small party has joined it — a measure of the contempt felt across the spectrum for the once-revered organisation that led India to independence. Its demise has left a vacuum that no party can fill. The rise of regional parties with a small number of MPs each makes it all but impossible to form stable governments.

The past 18 months have seen unprecedented chaos: the administration of Atal Bihari Vajpayee lasted 13 days; H. D. Deve Gowda led the nation for ten months; Inder Kumar Gujral, who remains caretaker Prime Minister until the present mess is sorted out, was toppled within seven months.

☐ Bomb attack: Two people were killed and 58 were injured when two bombs exploded within minutes of each other near a Sikh temple in northern Delhi. *(Reuters)*

Israeli pullback gesture condemned as violating peace treaty

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIANS reacted angrily last night after the Israeli Cabinet approved in principle a conditional further pullback from the occupied West Bank.

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian [illegible] Higher Education Minister and one of the more moderate Palestinian [illegible] leaders, rejected the decision [illegible] did not mention a [illegible] specific amount of territory. "This is a clear violation [of the peace treaty], a very transparent manoeuvre and something which would strike at the very validity and legitimacy of the peace process," she told CNN.

The Israeli move came after the worst weekend of Arab-Israeli violence since March in which 40 [illegible] mostly Palestinians, were [illegible]. In the self-rule city of [illegible], 3,000 angry Palestinian [illegible] blew up a mock-up of a [illegible] Jewish settlement. To cheers from the crowd, marchers used firecrackers to blow apart the wood and paper buildings. In Ramallah, another West Bank town, a portrait of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was burnt.

The cabinet vote of 16-0 with two abstentions by ministers from the hardline National Religious Party led to an angry reaction by the Israeli Left, who said the move was designed to avoid treaty obligations for three more phased pullbacks from land conquered in 1967.

Israeli media reports claimed that the amount of land being considered is between 6-8 per cent, as opposed to the 30 per cent demanded by Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority president, and the 10 per cent hoped for by Washington. Because of the strict conditions and a widespread belief the pullback will not take place, the vote appeared to temporarily reduce the chance of an anti-Netanyahu revolt by 17 hardline members of the Land of Israel Front.

In contrast, the left-wing Meretz Party tabled an immediate motion of no confidence. Yossi Beilin, a leading Labour dove, expressed the hope that extreme rightwingers might join with the Left to topple Mr Netanyahu, but the chances of a successful revolt appeared reduced.

Yesterday's vote was taken after right-wing protests against further pullbacks. On Saturday night nearly 1,000 rightwingers gathered outside Mr Netanyahu's residence in the first demonstration of its kind since he was elected in May 1996. The right-wing pressure was maintained yesterday outside the cabinet room where members of the hardline Women in Green movement demonstrated under the slogan "Not One Inch".

Commentators said the cabinet move was an attempt to defuse recent heavy pressure from the Clinton Administration for Israeli concessions. But most were agreed that what was being offered was "too little and too late" to rescue the peace process.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN to allow more Iraq oil sales

New York: The United Nations this week will renew the "oil-for-food" deal that allows Iraq to sell limited amounts of crude for humanitarian supplies (James Bone writes). Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to report today that the £1.25 billion from oil sales over the past six months was insufficient to feed 22 million Iraqis.

Pre-poll clashes

Dhaka: Political unrest gripping Bangladesh left 14 people dead and about 100 injured over the weekend as violence threatened parliamentary democracy before local elections being held today.

Threat to Taiwan

Hong Kong: The threat to Taiwan from mainland China was increased by the municipal election victory of the Democratic Progressive Party, which favours independence (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

Stage plight

Auckland: Michael Flatley, who collapsed on stage in Brisbane with bronchial asthma, has cancelled his *Lord of the Dance* Australian and New Zealand shows. He is to tour Britain in January. *(AFP)*

IMF helps Seoul

Seoul: South Korea reached a deal with the International Monetary Fund on a loan to cope with a debt crisis. Seoul had asked for $20 billion (£12.5 billion). *(Reuters)*

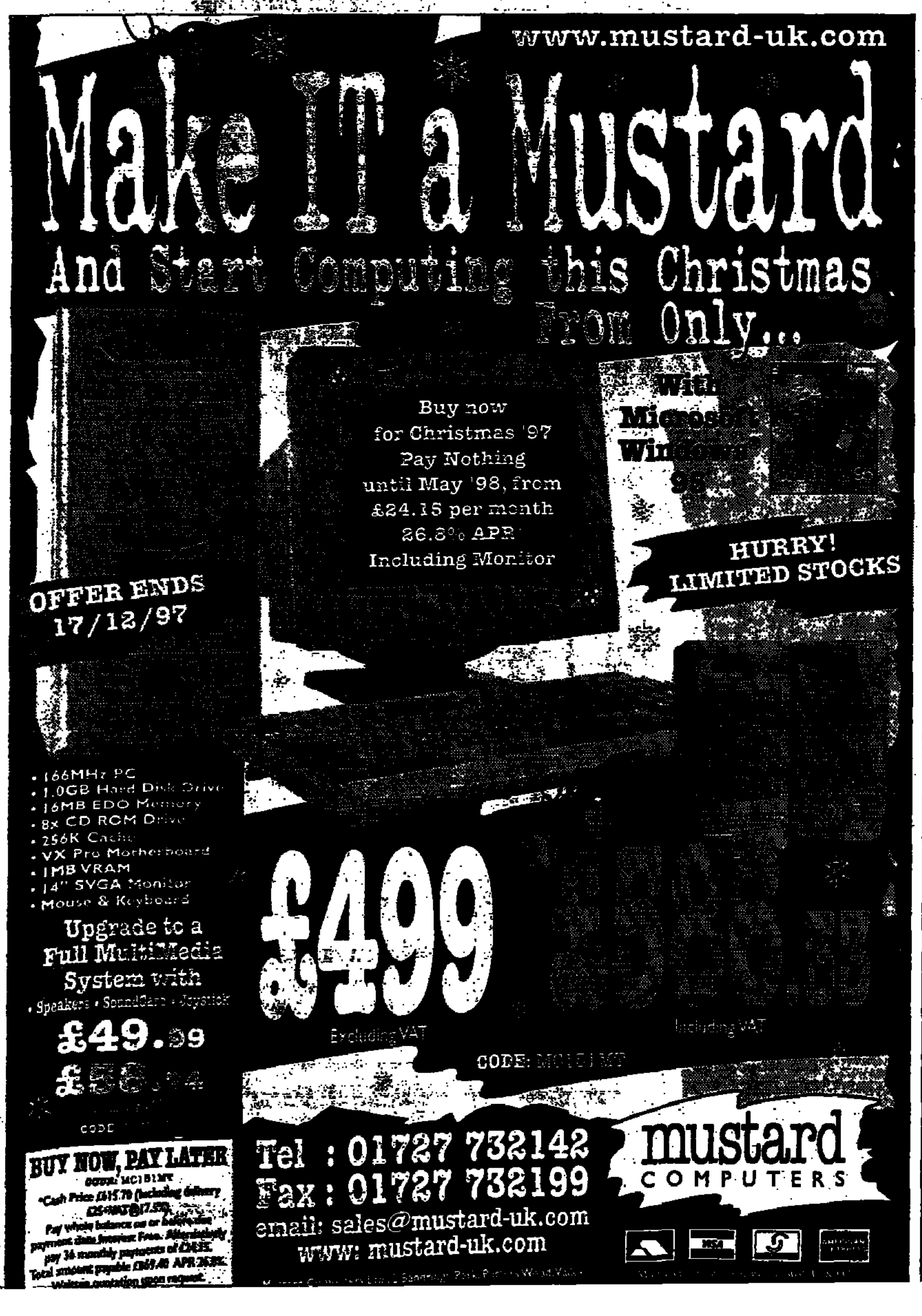
Details, page 52

Guerrillas killed

Paris: Backed by helicopter gunships, Algerian troops killed 26 Muslim guerrillas at a rebel camp where 25 civilians had been slaughtered at a roadblock, a national newspaper reported. *(Reuters)*

Family cell plan

Madrid: Couples and children under three will be allowed to live together in jail under a Spanish plan to set up 72 "family cells" in Aranjuez prison outside Madrid, *El País* reports. *(AFP)*



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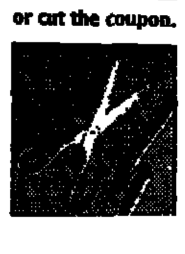

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Dynamic duo enlisted to challenge Kohl

INSIDE GERMANY

BY ROGER BOYES

Hollywood encourages the idea that men naturally bond, that relationships between buddies, however improbable, are the dynamo that drives the world: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Laurel and Hardy, Batman and Robin. The truth resides elsewhere. Men do have best friends but rarely do they become partners in politics, where competitive instincts dictate reserve.

It would be difficult to make a Hollywood film out of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, Bill Clinton and Al Gore. Yet the power of myth-making is such that people assume the male duo to be part of the order of things.

Certainly, that was the calculation of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) as it tried to find a way of ousting Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor. Over the past 15 years, the German leader has stolen so many SPD policies, and working-class voters, that little now divides the Government from the opposition. The budding election campaign barely mentions policies; only "visions of the future" and personalities.

Herr Kohl is depicted as a man so past it that he has to consult his wife on the economy. But he is in situ. Opinion polls show that the SPD and the Greens could topple the Government but there is a long way to go to the election in September.

After Oskar Lafontaine flopped badly against Herr Kohl in 1990 — the worst SPD result since 1957 — it was deemed that no single man could win against such a formidable statesman.

In 1994 the Social Democrats came up with a troika: Rudolf Scharping, candidate for the chancellorship, Herr Lafontaine and Gerhard Schröder, the premier of Lower Saxony. They were filmed walking three abreast to the music of Elgar and the effect was ridiculous. Now a tandem of Herr Lafontaine and Herr Schröder is supposed to do the trick. Posters show them looking together into the horizon.

This week the SPD will confirm the "two heads are better than one" strategy. But it does so with reluctance. In the constituencies, party workers are calling for a clear candidate to challenge Herr Kohl. A straw poll of delegates about to attend the annual conference tomorrow indicated that Willy Brandt, the late Chancellor, was still their hero.

The present understanding is that the rival to Herr Kohl will be chosen in March, as soon as the Lower Saxony elections are over. If Herr Schröder does well, he gets the job. If he fares badly, Herr Lafontaine has another joust with Herr Kohl. This is not a happy arrangement, since somebody will have to take second place.

At the moment Herr Lafontaine looks better placed. A party chairman, if he does his homework, can dominate the annual conference; he gives the keynote speech and winds up at the end. Herr Schröder is due to speak only on Thursday, at the fag end. The Left favours Herr Lafontaine and distrusts Herr Schröder. This matters more than it should. If the SPD makes common cause with the Greens, the influence of the Left will grow.

The party, however, needs Herr Schröder to capture the centre. This dependency is resented by delegates who have slipped out of the habit of thinking about voters. They do not like a man who hobnobs with the captains of industry.

Delegates believe they have a choice between the Lionel Jospin route to power (represented by francophile Lafontaine) and the Tony Blair road (anglophile Schröder). Annual conferences hate strategic choices. And so, they will duck and weave this week, and leave it to the two buddies to fight it out. There is, however, another way. The voting system makes it almost impossible to change power at a general election. One possibility is thus that Herr Kohl has to form a coalition with Herr Lafontaine as Vice-Chancellor. When this collapses (as it must), there will be new elections — and the big chance for Herr Schröder.

Heroin subsidy pushes addicts off the streets

FROM ROGER BOYES IN FRANKFURT

IN Frankfurt, financial heart of continental Europe, many roads lead to oblivion.

You can shoot up behind a dustbin, you can curl up on a stairwell. Or you can walk past the shining glass headquarters of Germany's leading banks and enter a pleasant room with potted plants and, at state expense, pump yourself full of heroin.

Bernie is a junkie commuter. He takes the free minibus — "The Dream Bus," he calls it — from the railway station to the east of the city. At a large council-run house, he can inject himself. "You can stay a bit longer there. And it's got wall mirrors." He points to his neck, the only body part left where he can still stab his syringe. The halogen lights, the magnifying mirrors, make it easier to find the vein.

"Been here before?" a social worker asks a man of 23 or 24, a debutant in the new regulated world of heroin addiction. There is a form to be signed, testifying that he is over 18, that he is not on a methadone cure, and that (this being Germany) he will obey the rules. Bernie, impatient for his fix, shifts from foot to foot waiting for the youth to be initiated. A plastic bowl is handed over, together with the ingredients of a fix: ascorbic acid, distilled water, part of a tampon to act as a filter, a spoon, a syringe and some cooking salt. Now it's Bernie's turn.

Policy on hard drugs across Europe is on the cusp of a revolution. In Zurich, addicts are given heroin on prescription and injected on city-subsidised premises. A council employee stands by as the addict injects; doctors are on hand; the exact dose is monitored on a computer. In The Netherlands, from next May, city authorities in Amsterdam and Rotterdam will start giving heroin to addicts in a trial run. And in German cities such as Hamburg and Stuttgart, drug experts are pressing for similar schemes to that in Frankfurt: no heroin handouts — not yet — but a controlled environment for hard-drug abusers. If there is a debate about marijuana in Germany, it centres on whether one should be allowed to smoke and drive. Hard-drug addiction is the problem, and so that is where solutions are being sought.

> ‘Out of a sense of decorum and a concern for property prices, solid citizens foot the bill’

"We started in 1993," said Regina Ernst, Frankfurt city's drug specialist. There are four consumption rooms and they are used for about 770 fixes a week. "There have been clear advantages, in terms of hygiene, and in providing a stress-free, low-risk place to inject. We have also helped to take addicts off the streets, so this is welcomed by residents and shopkeepers." Frankfurt and Zurich are synonymous with wealth. Yet both are junkie cities, heroin dealers outnumbering share dealers. It is easy to deduce why city elders have been willing to experiment with hard-drug policy. Boutique owners do not like comatose addicts sprawled in their doorways; inner-city residents are tired of paying for private security companies to drag overdosing teenagers out of pedestrian precincts. Thus, out of a sense of decorum, a concern for property prices and turnover, solid burghers are supporting state-subsidised heroin rooms. The Forsa Institute found that 52 per cent of Germans favour the "consumption rooms". The approval rating in Switzerland is even higher, around 70 per cent.

KLAUS DRINKWITZ/STERN

An addict in a Frankfurt clinic that provides "clean" fixes of heroin on the state. Residents and shopkeepers approve as junkies are no longer injecting in public

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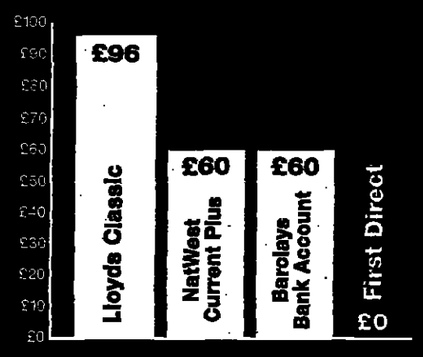

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Spy scandals overshadow Moscow talks

Espionage has put a strain on the Kohl-Yeltsin summit, writes Roger Boyes

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, and President Yeltsin of Russia held talks at a hunting lodge outside Moscow yesterday to seek to clarify the future of the relationship between the Kremlin, Paris and Bonn.

These delicate conversations — Britain in particular is worried that the proposed troika will cut it out of diplomatic manoeuvring — were overshadowed by spy scandals that are souring Russo-German friendship.

Not since the end of the Cold War have so many espionage affairs cluttered the relationship between Moscow and a European Union state. The German Federal Prosecutor said at the weekend that he had arrested two Germans suspected of spying for Russia. One was an employee of a leading aerospace company who is said to have supplied details of a new transport plane to an intelligence officer working for the SVR, the successor to the KGB intelligence service. In the meantime, the Germans were expressing dismay that signals traffic from their consulate in Novosibirsk has been intercepted by the Russians.

To add to this sudden cordling of relations, Munich prosecutors confirmed that three former German agents will soon go on trial for trying to sell complex Russian weaponry to Britain's MI6. The attempted sale seems to have been an unauthorised offshoot of a joint American-German intelligence operation, known as Operation Giraffe, which fought after 1991 to scoop up as much information and technology as possible from the Soviet forces withdrawing from Germany.

Yeltsin: hoping to boost Paris and Bonn links

Among the booty, according to a report in today's *Der Spiegel*, was the onboard computer of a MiG29 fighter, code books, personnel documents, information about morale and technical papers about laser-steered armoured weapons.

There is, however, a more fundamental problem in relations. The original point of the Kohl-Yeltsin meeting was to mark the coming into force of the co-operation agreement between Russia and the EU. Mr Yeltsin was eager to use the occasion to develop a Franco-German-Russian triangle that would put Russia on a par with the Franco-German axis. Poland has been developing a similar trilateral arrangement, known as the Weimar Triangle, with Paris and Bonn.

The Germans regard that arrangement as a useful way of offsetting criticism that they are turning Central Europe into their strategic and economic backyard. But to extend such an alignment to Russia would, indeed already has, aroused suspicion in Britain and other EU states. The Germans have thus been trying to persuade Russia to deal with the EU as a whole rather than just the Franco-German partnership.

Herr Kohl was hoping to use yesterday's summit to narrow the perceptual gap. Instead, the distrust created by the spying activities has made both sides resort to the phraseology of the Cold War.

☐ **Moscow:** President Yeltsin and Herr Kohl decided yesterday that the first annual summit between Russia, Germany and France would be held in the Urals town of Yekaterinburg in the first half of next year, Russian news agencies reported. *(AFP)*

President postpones day of reckoning

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has postponed a meeting with government ministers who had been summoned to the Kremlin today to give account of their economic policies.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Yeltsin said the meeting had been put off to allow parliament time to debate next year's budget. The meeting had been expected to centre on a government pledge to pay all state-sector salary arrears by the end of the year. With a debt of some £2.5 billion outstanding, officials now admit that there is no chance of achieving this. Much of the President's criticism is expected to be directed at Boris Nemtsov, a First Deputy Prime Minister, who is understood to have been responsible for setting the salary arrears deadline.

Mr Nemtsov, who has been praised lavishly in the past by Mr Yeltsin for his ideas and energy, was untainted by the recent book scandal that toppled Anatoli Chubais in his role as Finance Minister, but nonetheless Mr Nemtsov lost his job as Fuel and Energy Minister.

The Milosevic family, above from right, Slobodan, the Yugoslav President, his son Marko, and wife Mirjana Markovic, during a public appearance; right, Marko, whose acts of intimidation in small Serbian towns have started to attract criticism in previously timid media

Milosevic's son: bully with bullets

FROM TOM WALKER IN KOSTOLAC

HE CAME into the smoke-filled bar brandishing a Heckler & Kock machine pistol, silencing the music. The gunman told the handicapped boy and his friends to stand against the wall, and then produced another pistol, holding it to the boy's neck.

"How many bullets do you think this gun can put in your head?" he asked. The terrified youth was silent. "Nice scar," continued the gunman, noticing a blemish on the boy's neck. "You want another?"

With his bleached hair, the assailant was unmistakable and well-known to most of the patrons in Kostolac's Rock Café. The boy, now recovering at home with his parents, had just chosen the wrong night.

In time he will go back to his low-paid job, digging coal in a nearby pit. As for the gunman — Marko Milosevic, son of Slobodan Milosevic, the dictatorial Yugoslav President — nothing will, or can, be done.

For the boy's family, terrified of being identified, life is hard enough in central Serbia. His father — whose police pension has slipped from 600 marks (£200) to 150 marks a month — has taken the portrait of a beaming Mr Milosevic down from the wall. The mother breaks down in tears as she recalls the attack on her son.

Ten miles down the road at Pozarevac, where Marko — a 23-year-old discotheque owner and failed racing driver — lives behind steel gates, the police line is simple: "I think there was no incident," said a woman. The Interior Ministry official responsible for statements about Marko was not available for comment.

The Rock Café regulars and the boy's family are in little doubt, however. Nor are Serbia's opposition parties, which have filed a civilian complaint about the latest incident involving Marko. The story was splashed on the front page of the weekly magazine *Nin*, and has been followed up by several other papers in a national media previously reluctant to criticise the Milosevic family.

Reconstructed from accounts in Kostolac, Marko Milosevic and his friends entered the café around midnight on November 4. Angered that he was being stared at by the boy, who has a sight defect, he went out to his car and returned with the gun. After realising the boy was harmless, he pushed him into the lavatory and told him to count to 100.

"My son's only guilt was to look at someone famous," said the boy's father. "He was always the quietest in the neighbourhood, because of his disability. Now he's scared to go out at all."

One regular at the cafe said: "We're not scared of him — he comes to places like this because he's nothing in Belgrade where the real gangsters are. What's the point of showing off with guns here?"

Internet appeal for Bosnian universities

Sarajevo: Blackwell's, the bookshop, launches an Internet appeal today to restock Bosnia's destroyed and denuded university libraries (Tom Walker writes).

Under the programme, by which at least 1,000 key textbooks should be delivered to Bosnia, users of Blackwell's website will be invited to buy and donate books for three universities — Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar — listed on an appeal page. They all suffered during the war, but while Banja Luka, the largest town in Bosnian Serb territory, was left largely unscathed by fighting, Mostar and Sarajevo saw their universities badly damaged. Banja Luka's university is afflicted more by the region's general poverty. The programme was thought up by Liz Macfarlane, of Blackwell's on-line bookshop, who was shocked by the plight of students in Bosnia.

Blackwell's on-line bookshop and details of the appeal can be found at http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk/

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Tough US line threat to global warming talks

Negotiators want America to compromise, writes Bronwen Maddox

THE UNITED STATES is in danger of becoming the villain of the global warming talks opening today in Kyoto, as negotiators from 160 countries try to bridge the deep divisions between America and other industrialised countries.

Japan, the conference host, has made clear that America's refusal to compromise could torpedo the ten-day talks on a new international treaty to combat the threat of climate change. Hiroshi Oki, the chairman and Japan's Environment Minister, told Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, in a final briefing that the conference's success hung on whether the US surrendered some of its demands.

American officials hit back yesterday at their critics, saying that they were prepared to negotiate but would not sign an "unrealistic agreement". For others "to suggest that the US should be the only nation that must compromise is not really very realistic", one said.

In private, US and European Union officials are sceptical that there is much room for manoeuvre. Although President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore are keen to secure a reputation for "greenness", they face implacable opposition to higher energy taxes from industry and Congress, which fear the impact on the economy.

The talks, which have brought 10,000 negotiators, environmentalists and journalists to the temples and autumn foliage of one of Japan's least-polluted cities, will be a test of whether grand-scale environmental talks are worth the effort. The likely slowdown in global economic growth after this month's Asian financial crisis may have more success in curbing emissions than any targets drawn up by Kyoto, some officials suggest.

The row between the US and other industrialised countries has deepened over the past three months. The EU claims that it has the moral high ground with its proposal to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by 15 per cent on 1990 levels by 2010. Weekend reports suggested the EU might soften this position to bring it closer to Japan's offer of 5 per cent cuts by 2010.

But both the EU and Japan remain on the other side of a chasm from the US, which will agree only to stabilise emissions by 2010. The US has also attacked the EU for self-indulgence in treating itself as a single bloc, inside which Spain and Portugal will be allowed to raise emissions. US officials argue that the EU's emissions have been curbed by the collapse of East German industry and recession.

The second stumbling block is America's insistence that developing countries join in. Their greenhouse emissions will exceed those of developed countries within 20 to 30 years. But China and India have flatly refused to make curbs, saying they are not responsible for greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.

Mark Mwandosya of Tanzania, chairman of the developing-country group at the talks, said: "Many of us are struggling to attain a decent standard of living for our people, yet we are constantly told that we must share in the effort to reduce emissions so industrialised countries can continue to enjoy the benefits of their wasteful lifestyle." Some developing countries have given cautious support to the US proposal for "joint implementation", a scheme allowing rich countries to get credit for helping to clean up poorer ones. Alternatively, the US has suggested a "tradeable-permits" scheme to allow dirty countries to buy the right to pollute from cleaner ones.

Letters, page 23

KATSUMI KASAHARA/AP

Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto, rides a bicycle through Japan's ancient capital yesterday in an appeal for environmental responsibility

Brazilian President sees Blair as his economic model

Cardoso: feels affinity with Labour ministers

The Cardoso Government is looking for investment from Britain, especially in the gas, oil and communications industries, Gabriella Gamini writes

FERNANDO Henrique Cardoso, who arrives in Britain today for the first state visit by a Brazilian president in more than 20 years, said he feels a special affinity with the Labour Government and will appeal for British investment in his reformed, market economy.

The four-day trip, during which Senhor Cardoso and his wife, Ruth, will spend three nights at Buckingham Palace, will be in marked contrast to the previous state visit. In 1976, General Ernesto Geisel had eggs and rotten tomatoes thrown at his car by London crowds in protest at the human rights violations committed during his military dictatorship. Brazil reverted to democratic rule in 1985. Senhor Cardoso, 66, who took power in 1994, is the architect of his country's recent economic recovery. His monetary policy, based on the indexing of prices with the backing of reserves, has brought inflation under control. He has also launched a huge privatisation plan as part of a series of market reforms.

"I want to appeal to British industry to invest more in our free-market economy, especially in the communications, gas and oil industries which we are selling off, and I know British expertise in this area is very strong," Senhor Cardoso said during an exclusive interview with *The Times* in Brasilia at the weekend. Britain is among Brazil's five biggest investors.

Unlike most of his predecessors, Senhor Cardoso is regarded as a "Mr Clean" politician, untainted by the corruption that has characterised Brazilian politics for decades. A sociologist who taught at Harvard University and wrote books reflecting his social democrat convictions before he began a political career, the President has recently moved towards the Right and says he identifies with Tony Blair.

"I feel a special admiration for Mr Blair and see him as a model for what I am trying to do here in Brazil," Senhor Cardoso said. "The difference is that Britain had Mrs Thatcher beforehand to trim the state system. I am having to implement the brutal cutbacks at the same time as putting emphasis on social policies — we have 80 million poor people."

Senhor Cardoso says that he has begun the task of modernising his country, but admits that much remains to be done before his mandate ends in 1999. "I have to focus on reducing the gaping gap between rich and poor. We have started by emphasising primary education and want to get all children into school before the end of next year," he said. "We have also begun land reform and settled more than 300,000 landless peasants in the past three years."

Brazil's richest 10 per cent own 90 per cent of the land; the tentative land reform efforts have begun to redress the imbalance.

However, he added that on health "the results have not been so good. The system is plagued by an enormous bureaucracy and corruption and, despite doubling our expenditure on public healthcare, the service is a nightmare."

On the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, Senhor Cardoso said: "This is a serious problem, but to solve it I need more help from the international community. The Amazon is a vast area and we need financing to install an efficient system to patrol what is going on."

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Lost treasures of the ancient world

The race is on to preserve one of Eastern Europe's most spectacular archaeological sites and keep the 'antiquities mafia' at bay. **Anjana Ahuja** reports

JAMES HILL

The ruins of Chersonesos, the ancient settlement lying on the edge of Sevastopol, in Ukraine, where Greek, Roman and Byzantine empires flourished

For 80 years, archaeologists in the West had heard of the fabulous treasures to be found in a hidden world. Byzantine churches, Greek theatres and Roman ruins all testified to the wealth of human history that lay in Chersonesos, an ancient settlement lying on the edge of Sevastopol, in Ukraine (not to be confused with an ancient region of the same name comprising the modern Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey).

Until the end of the Cold War, no outsider had stepped inside this remarkable site, which, unusually, contained the remainders of a thriving rural community as well as a city. The reason for secrecy was its strategic location on the Black Sea — Sevastopol houses the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet and a nuclear submarine base. Finally, in 1992, armed with a warrant signed by both the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Professor Joseph Carter from the Institute of Classical Archaeology at the University of Texas became the first Westerner to join excavations at Chersonesos (the Greek word for peninsula). "It was so exciting," he recalls. "I had thought about this place for 20 years and finally I was there."

The historical riches within surpassed his expectations, but excitement quickly gave way to concern.

Although Ukrainian and Russian colleagues had done an admirable job trying to protect the town, word was emerging of several threats to the site. There were rumours of an "antiquities mafia" thriving on the spoils gleaned from raiding ancient tombs. Locals had been pilfering ruins to find building materials.

Perhaps most worrying of all, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church had stepped forward to lay claim to the land and, therefore, the ancient site. The land belonged to it before the Russian Revolution; Vladimir, the first Christian King of Russia, had been baptised there. The site has belonged to the Archaeology Museum of Chersonesos since 1920. Now the Church, encouraged by a powerful patriarchy in Moscow, wants it back. The dispute has taken a bitter turn — the Church is said to have referred to the director of the museum as "a devil". Professor Carter learnt that the Church's plan was to pull down all "paganist monuments" and allow vast, private development. Every relic constructed in pre-Christian times would be at risk. And with evidence of settlement stretching back to the 5th century BC, a major chunk of this spectacular archaeological site would be in peril. Since then, Professor Carter has waged a crusade to turn Chersonesos into a world-class heritage site to rival such destinations as Pompeii.

> 'Locals pilfer ruins to get building material'

Why should Chersonesos be so revered in archaeological circles? According to Professor Carter, it contains important clues about how rural society operated under the Greeks, who arrived in the region in the 5th century BC. "There is nowhere like it in the Greek and Roman world," he says. "It gives us an idea of life outside the ancient cities."

Excavations revealed 400 farm plots each of 60 acres. The lines are still discernible today. The farms grew grapes and grain, and supplied Athens with their produce. Professor Carter says the neat, equal divisions seem to point to an egalitarian society, although others disagree. He says: "When the Greeks started out here in the fifth century BC, this community may well have been egalitarian. However, history tells us that people become greedy. Who knows, the community could have been run by slaves."

The edges of this rural swath are dotted with fortresses. Excavations at the site of one such building by Professor Carter reveal that the fortresses were square, had moats and ramparts, and housed barracks. Contrary to popular thought, he says, rural communities were not poor or socially disadvantaged compared to city-dwellers.

Amid what used to be green fields lies the ancient city, which once contained temples, and a mix of luxurious houses and small huts. Layer upon layer of history lies there — Byzantine churches, which once boasted decorative mosaics and painted plasterwork, are built upon Roman ruins perched atop Greek foundations. It records a complicated history — the Greeks were joined by the Romans in the 1st century AD, who built up an army there. The Romans drew back when the Goths and Barbarians flooded in from the Baltic region. All the while the colony remained fairly independent. It even minted its own coins, before the mint was turned into a fortress. The independence ended in 1399, when the Mongols launched a violent assault and turned Chersonesos into part of the Golden Horde, an outpost of the Mongol Empire.

Ancient civilisations rose and fell, leaving a record of how rural life developed over thousands of years.

Mixed with the artefacts are grim reminders of the region's bloodiest chapter in recent history — the Charge of the Light Brigade, during the Crimean War. More recently, bullets and holsters dating back to the Second World War have been recovered.

From his many pilgrimages to the site, Professor Carter has built up a fascinating picture of the estimated 10,000-20,000 people who made up this most northern Greek colony around the 5th century BC. "From engravings on tombs, we know they cared for their physical appearance," he says. "The women had perfume bottles."

It was a literate and educated society, with doctors and other professionals. There is evidence from the names appearing on gravestones of multiculturalism, with non-Greeks living in relative harmony alongside the Greeks.

Professor Carter and other experts rate Chersonesos as the best preserved Greek colonial territory. The settlement also sheds light on how people spread throughout the world in ancient times. For these reasons, the site is now one of 100 at-risk monuments listed by the World Monuments Fund in New York (Pompeii and the Taj Mahal also feature). Conservation work, which is also being carried out by Columbia University, is bankrolled by private donations. Other major organisations, such as the World Bank and the United Nations, have also been approached.

The task of preserving the site will cost millions but, Professor Carter says, it must be done. He says: "We can't just dig and abandon it. These are treasures that people are going to be interested in for years to come. We need to stop the deterioration from weather and vandalism. We need to educate the local people so they do not take the stones away to build their houses.

"It is an infinite project that will still be continuing when I breathe my last breath. There is so much to do and to find. There is an incredible story to tell, and, as archaeologists, it is our duty to tell it."

Williams syndrome ☐ Tsetse flies ☐ Diagnosis of lung disease

Fairytales come true

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

FAIRIES, pixies and elves seldom find their way into scientific literature, being more at home in folklore and children's stories. But a Californian professor believes that the "little people" owe their origins to a rare hereditary syndrome that affects one birth in every 20,000.

There are striking similarities between children with Williams syndrome and the "little people". Williams children are known for their unusual faces. They have full cheeks, large eyes, small upturned noses, wide mouths, tiny chins and oval ears. They grow slowly and many remain small. The condition is caused by a missing stretch of chromosome seven, comprising about 15 genes. The result is children of distinctive appearance who have difficulties in some areas of learning, but are gifted in others.

Professor Howard Lenhoff, of the University of California, decided to investigate. From more than 200 stories and anthologies, he drew up tables of the qualities shared by the fictional characters. He found that they were often depicted as kind, gentle souls, matching behavioural traits in Williams children.

There is anecdotal evidence that they are musically gifted, have an impressive command of language, and are often vivid storytellers.

The little people of legend are also depicted as enchanting storytellers and musicians. "Legends are often based on real life," says Professor Lenhoff. "And parents of Williams children can see the similarities."

Brain-imaging techniques have begun to reveal details. Some parts of the brain are smaller in Williams children, while others, such as the limbic system and the neocerebellum, are larger. The limbic system is thought to be the seat of emotion, which could help to explain the empathy displayed by Williams children, while there is evidence that the neocerebellum is linked to fluency of language.

Professor Lenhoff, whose daughter has the condition, is conducting a study designed to establish whether Williams people do outshine the rest in musical ability. Of his daughter Gloria, now 42, he says: "We always thought her ability was unusual. She can sing in 25 languages and can memorise a passage of music in half an hour."

The Williams Syndrome Foundation, in Tonbridge, Kent, says some parents might be offended by the theory in the December issue of *Scientific American*. "I can understand the sensitivity, but many parents are delighted that our children may have stimulated such lovely stories," Professor Lenhoff says.

Hair-curling lure for a fly

TSETSE flies use sensitive hairs on their legs to detect the uric acid and amino acids in human sweat, a Dutch team has shown. This finding could be used to make better traps for killing the flies, which spread trypanosomes, the single-cell organisms responsible for sleeping sickness.

The existence of the hairs has been known about for more than 70 years, but in the tsetse fly were thought to be used only when male and female mated. A team led by Dr Wynand van der Goes van Naters of Groningen University released flies in a glass jar containing a sheet of paper treated with various substances and heated to imitate human skin. The flies bit most eagerly on a surface covered with the amino acids valine and leucine. A touch of uric acid made them bite for twice as long.

The conclusion is that the flies use the scents as a way of finding flesh, and therefore blood. Field trials in Zimbabwe showed that flies would spend twice as long on an insecticide trap baited with uric acid, greatly increasing the chance of killing them.

A nose for trouble

A NEW technique for diagnosing lung disease uses the least regarded of the senses, smell. An electronic nose developed at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre in Philadelphia has identified nine patients who were suffering from pneumonia, distinguishing them from another ten who were not.

The device is the brainchild of Dr William Hanson, head of anaesthesia and critical-care medicine, who described it at a meeting of the American Society of Anaesthesiologists in San Diego.

The samples were analysed in the device's odour detectors. The analysis takes the form of two-dimensional patterns of dots, representing the volatile materials in the breath and distinguishing those with lung infections.

The technique has several advantages, says Dr Hanson. "Rather than waiting two to three days for the results of a bacterial culture, or relying on chest X-rays that may be inaccurate, doctors can almost instantaneously evaluate their patients for infection," he says. He believes that the nose may be able to detect other diseases.

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The Labour luvvies' handbook

Fitting into Labour's new Britain means wearing M&S suits, carrying a pager and being tall, writes **Siôn Simon**

Invitations are now going out for the first new Labour wedding. The new year will see the splicing of Gordon Brown's adviser Ed Balls with Yvette Cooper, the twentysomething MP for Pontefract and Castleford and equally fervent Brown acolyte. Never before have two such pure new Labourites been joined in matrimony. The occasion will be a celebration of everything it means to be new Labour; a delicious backdrop for the most rampant preening rituals of the young new Labour boys and girls. For there is no doubt that new Labour are a breed apart with a set of mores and style of their own.

Any British person can tell you how to be a traditional Tory; you just mince about in an effeminate haircut and a double-breasted Savile Row suit having dinner at Le Caprice and being excessively polite. And old Labour types are equally easy to spot, with their cloth caps, pigeons and thick northern accents.

As Britons, we are instinctively in tune with the metaphysical truth which lies beneath these stereotypes. Far from being the silliness they might seem, such crude portraits are crucial reference points for us all. But with new Labour comes a new species that we must get to know. New Labour having triumphed, new Britain belongs to the new Britons. And if you want to fit in, there are one or two things you ought to know.

First, you have to be tall. 10 Downing Street is now stuffed with the vertically gifted. Tony Blair is a fraction of an inch under, but his press secretary Alastair Campbell, private secretary Jonathan Powell, lead policy wonk David Miliband, and other staffers by the armful, all gangle happily over 6ft.

They are so uniformly tall they even subdivide into two types: the spin-doctors tend towards a well-proportioned bigness in the manner of cowboys or professional goalkeepers; while the intellectual types share the old-fashioned, not-very-good-at-sport-but-embarrassingly-keen lankiness which suggests that limb length is inversely proportional to motor skill.

Unfortunately, for the more compact Wannabe new Britons (WNBs) among us, tallness is not optional. It is a minimum entry requirement and an important emblem of the political mission. The underlying assumption is that short persons are simply tall people who did not make the effort. Just as not trying hard enough at school means you don't get to go to Balliol with the new Britons, so failure to pay sufficient attention to your growth results in what is perceived as a distasteful height deficiency.

On the other hand, you will not have to spend a fortune on clothes, particularly if you are a man. More than almost any other area of life, it is in clothing that new Labour men reveal the asceticism which characterises their politics.

> Techno-gadgetry has long been new Labour's weakness

But it is a measure of their self-confidence, and to some extent their style, that you would never guess their suits and shirts came from Marks & Spencer. Yes, we all know that Gordon Brown had a Tim Everest suit made for his first Budget speech (the press were briefed accordingly). But it is still true that a higher percentage of new Labour men have more St Michael labels pressed against their necks than any similarly aged and salaried group in Britain.

As ever, there is a reason for this preference. It is important for the new Briton to look smart and professional at all times. But new Labour is also a serious, indeed quasi-intellectual, project, and the new Britons are a serious, quasi-intellectual bunch. The expenditure of more than minimal time, effort or money on clothing would be frivolous.

Male WNBs should buy their suits discreetly from M&S, but walk as if they came from Brooks Brothers, the sophisticated transatlantic cousin — American role models are important to new Labour. Women should avoid Marks & Spencer unless they wish to go into Parliament (in which case poorly fitting brightly coloured M&S suits are *de rigueur*). Otherwise, they should invest in a couple of outfits from an obscure local designer no one has heard of.

New Labour wedding: Brown acolytes Yvette Cooper and Ed Balls

LYNNE SLADKEY

SIMON WALKER

Badly fitting, brightly coloured Marks & Spencer suits are must-haves for women MPs. Right, Tony Blair, who is a fraction under the new Briton requisite 6ft

But the most important purchase for the Wannabe new Briton is the pager. This is by far and away the ultimate new Labour accessory. Techno-gadgetry has long been a new Labour weakness. It first reared its head at the time of the intensive campaign to secure support for John Smith's one member one vote plans at Labour's 1993 conference in Brighton.

Admittedly, this was pre-Blair, but it was a new Labour watershed nevertheless. During the frantic process of negotiation, persuasion and coercion, the leader's team began to appear with headsets and tiny microphones, very much after the fashion of the traditional American secret-service agent.

Since then, the techno-fest has become a staple of new Labour life. Downing Street policy wonk James Purnell had his Apple Newton up and running and was whipping it out of his trousers at the slightest provocation almost before they were even invented. And that Prince Hal of Spin, young Tim Allan, seems to have discreet little earphones permanently appended to his ears, the better to monitor some arcane news broadcast or other.

But the last word in electronic apparatus is undoubtedly the humble message pager. Without exception, every new Briton has one. If you should ever come across someone claiming to be a new Briton who does not have a vibrating companion clipped to their waistband, you will know you have encountered an impostor.

Pagers are the perfect communications device for new Britons because they keep them in contact at all times while allowing them to make the decision as to whether a paged message merits elevation to the status of conversation. Communication is priceless, of course, but time is also precious to this Stakhanovite new breed.

The real purpose of the pager cleaves even more deeply to the heart of new Britons. It enables them, on receipt of that silently vibrating signal, seamlessly to detach the little limpet and, while still apparently in conversation, silently digest the message it bears.

Left, Brown and PR paramour Sarah Macaulay. Right, a tall Campbell with his PM

As the pager returns to its holster in a gesture which is Gary Cooper smooth, the real import of the communication — whatever the actual words on the screen may have been — is always obvious and always the same. One look at the knowing expression on the new Briton's face will tell you what it is, and why the pager is such a daily source of succour: it means that they know something you don't, and something pretty interesting and important at that. Which, of course, only fuels your frenzied desire to join the club.

As to which club, it will almost certainly be Soho House, the private boozing and gobbling club on the corner of Greek Street and Old Compton Street. Before the election a notable new Briton now in Downing Street (not Tony Blair) notoriously remarked that the most ideological choice a new Briton should ever have to make is whether to join Soho House or the Groucho. But he was wrong. The Groucho is far too decadent and frivolous a place for respectable new Britons. Even Soho House is a club to which new Britons go, rather than join.

A few notable new Britons are members: young Prince Allan (qv) from Downing Street; Brian Wilson, the former spin-doctor who is now a Minister of State at the Scottish Office; News International's political fixer Alison Clark; and a surfeit of journalists led by Patrick Wintour of *The Observer*.

The normal procedure is to slipstream in behind a member, rather than actually join. Thus Gordon Brown is seen at Soho House discreetly dining with his PR paramour Sarah Macaulay. But it is she who is the member. Personal lack of membership can never hamper a true new Briton's evening aspirations, though, because any group of five or more new Britons will always contain at least one member of Soho House. It's just one of those things.

The reason they do not join is simple. New Britons do not follow trends; they set them. new Labour is about redefining politics and rebuilding the nation anew, after all. So, by the time most of them realised they really ought to be members of Soho House, it was far too late for them to be seen to be joining. In which appalling paradox lie the seeds of Soho House's destruction as new Labour's secret bothie. Sooner or later the new Britons are bound to find somewhere else to go, where they can all join in the fun. But you can't.

● *The author is associate editor of* The Spectator

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Past catches up with the Diabolical Lovers

The extravagant lifestyle of a glamorous young couple hid a dark secret. **Barry Wigmore** reports

To the bronzed and the beautiful of Miami Beach, Peter Schmidt and Aurore Martin had everything: youth, good looks, fast cars, a luxurious home, and always plenty of money. Perhaps, at 27 and 28, they were a little young for such success, especially as no one really knew what the couple with the exotic French accents actually did to make *their fortune*.

But in this sun-kissed Shangri-La of ostentatious houses and secret drug deals, few questions are asked, so for five years, Peter and Aurore slipped easily into the world of millionaires and movie stars.

Every Wednesday night, week in, week out, Martin treated friends to a caviare dinner at the Forge, one of the most expensive restaurants on Miami Beach, where locals such as Madonna and Sylvester Stallone dine regularly.

Their 17th-floor beachfront condominium was luxuriously furnished, albeit in questionable taste. A £12,000 suite in soft, white leather took up most of the main living room, with its spectacular views of the ocean. Every room had a big-screen television.

Across the street was the couple's 40ft yacht, *The Tempest*, moored at its private dock. Their daytime runabout was a powerful speedboat, and in the garage beneath the apartment block sat their Jaguar sports car.

No one knew that in their native Belgium, Peter and Aurore were known as *les Amants Diaboliques* — the Diabolical Lovers — that their £1 million fortune allegedly had been amassed by life insurance fraud, and that they were wanted by Interpol. For murder.

Not content to work like most people, *les Amants Diaboliques* collected spouses, then killed them for the life insurance, it was alleged when the two shuffled into a US federal court in handcuffs and leg-irons last week.

Schmidt married first, in 1992. His bride was Ursula Deschamps, 22. Five months after the wedding, she drowned when her car plunged into a canal as her husband taught her to drive. Schmidt collected about £300,000 in life insurance, but at that stage nobody was suspicious.

The Diabolical Lovers disappeared to Florida, but with their tastes and Miami's expensive toys and attractions, the money did not last.

> 'Aurore threw parties, bragging about the murder'

In 1995 Martin returned to Belgium, where she soon met a homely accountant, Marc Van Beers. A few months later, they married. Van Beers did not make it past the honeymoon. They went to Corsica, where their car ran off a cliff. The groom died. His bride sustained minor injuries.

"After the incident, Aurore Martin told different versions of what transpired," Assistant US District Attorney Hugo Black told the Miami court.

"The Belgian police became suspicious and during their investigation, they learnt that Martin was the beneficiary of several life insurance policies on her husband; at least one of these was obtained without his knowledge."

Martin's behavior convinced Belgian detectives that a crime had been committed. She was hardly subtle, throwing lavish parties and bragging about the killing.

Eventually her stepmother called police to tell them that while Martin was recovering in hospital, she had boasted that she was going to be reunited with Schmidt as soon as possible. Police later learnt that Schmidt had been in Corsica during the ill-fated honeymoon.

The Belgians pushed for Martin to be charged with murder, but the Corsican authorities ruled that the crash was an accident and the grieving widow collected 24 million francs (£500,000), and disappeared again to Florida.

In Belgium, Van Beers's family demanded a more thorough inquiry. In October 1996, his body was exhumed and, it is claimed, a post-mortem examination showed that he had died before the car crash.

An anonymous caller earlier this year helped the investigation. The caller told police that Martin and Schmidt acted together in the murder, and that Schmidt's wife had died in a car crash... just as Van Beers had.

Backtracking over the Corsica "accident," Belgian police concluded that Martin staged it by telling her husband to stop the car because she was feeling ill. When Van Beers stopped, it is claimed that Schmidt and three accomplices ambushed him and beat him to death with baseball bats.

Then they piled his body behind the wheel of the car and, with Martin tightly strapped in the passenger seat, pushed it over the cliff.

The Belgian detectives then looked into Deschamps' death. They now believe that the 22-year-old newlywed was already dead before the accident: Schmidt had drowned her in the bath before taking her out in the car.

Last May a Belgian court ruled that both "accidents" were murder, and that the lovers were fugitives from justice.

US prosecutors say Martin admitted both crimes to Belgian informants. Miami court papers allege one informant told the police: "Aurore Martin stated 'This time Peter and I made a better deal than with Peter's wife, when we received not so much'."

As the months dragged by with no arrest, Belgian officials became impatient. The FBI and every police department in Florida were tied up by a far more high-profile case: the murder of Gianni Versace.

Etienne Van Mol, a police liaison officer at the Belgian Embassy in Washington, said: "I had to explain to my people that Florida is four times bigger than Belgium. They could not comprehend how many places there are to hide in Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Palm Beach."

In America, US marshals are responsible for tracking down fugitives — as they did in the film *The Fugitive*. Slowly their net closed on the Diabolical Lovers.

Martin and Schmidt tried to dismantle their lavish lifestyle. At the end of the summer they moved from their condo to a nondescript apartment in the working-class Kendall neighborhood, a suburban sprawl southwest of Miami.

Finally, deputy marshal Mike Moran and his partner, Fort Lauderdale detective Jorge Benitez, zeroed in on Schmidt as he talked on a payphone near Miami International Airport. Instead of the Jaguar, he was driving a rented Saturn, an inexpensive family car. In it, the detectives found $47,000 in cash and a .357 Magnum pistol.

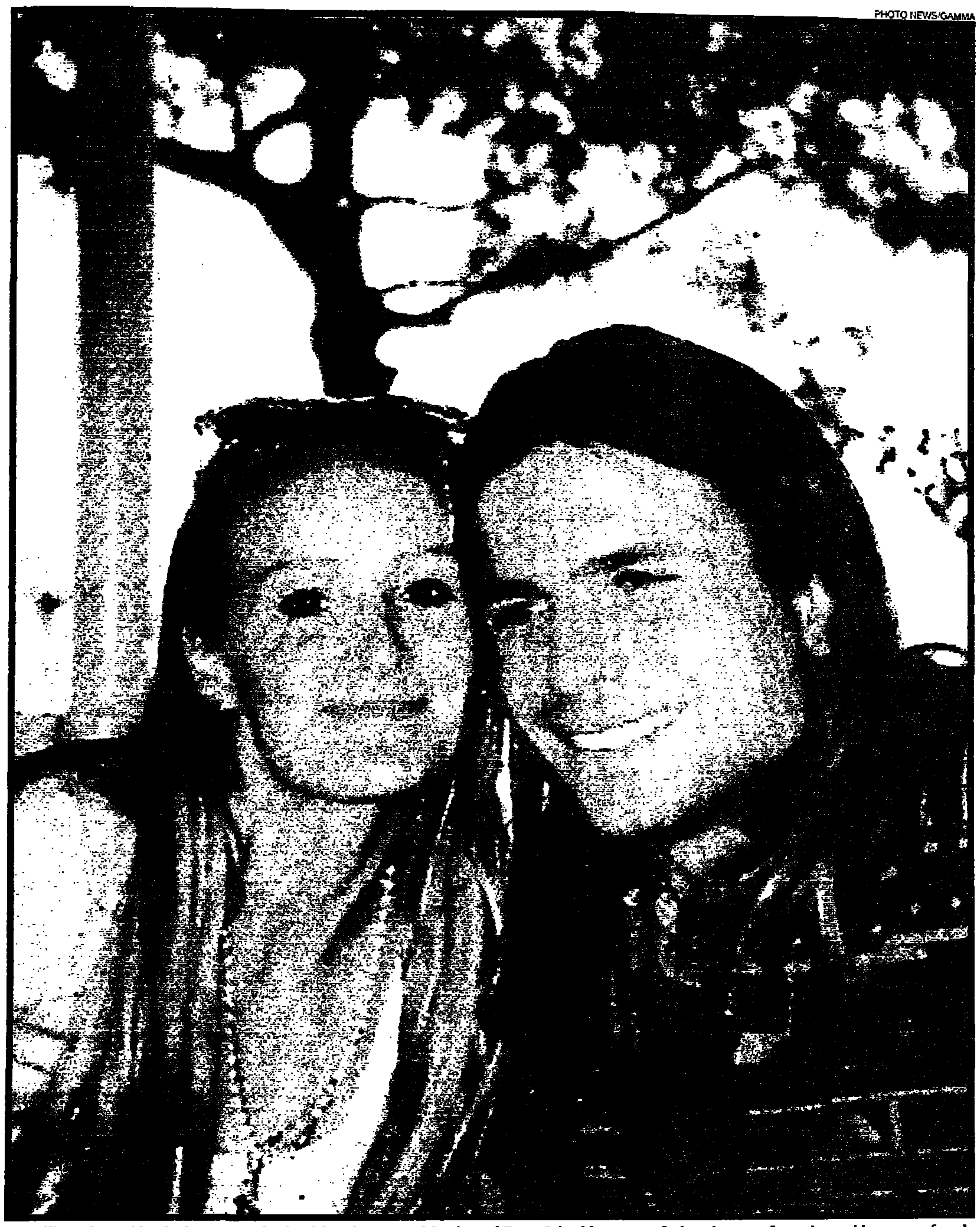
Although Schmidt would not reveal Martin's whereabouts, several hours later she was found at the hideaway. She, too, was carrying $47,000 in cash, and wept for nearly two hours after her arrest.

In a brief court appearance, the "deadly lovers" remained silent. Both wore standard blue prison uniforms. Martin appeared pale with no make-up, while Schmidt had shaved off a dark, full beard he had when he was arrested.

The couple's lawyers say they will fight extradition, and it could take a year to go through the Florida courts.

Belgium can wait. Van Mol, their Interpol man, said: "We are very, very happy. This case was a hot potato. Belgium is a small country, and it has shocked the nation. The Belgian people were in a rage. I am almost 60 years old, and in my 30 years of service. I have never seen a case like it."

PHOTO NEWS/GAMMA



Readily embraced by the jet-setters of Miami Beach, Aurore Martin and Peter Schmidt are now facing charges of murder and insurance fraud

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This week in THE TIMES

■ THEATRE

The RSC's *Hamlet* comes to the Barbican with Alex Jennings as the Prince
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

■ FILM

Personal loyalty or public duty? Sylvester Stallone must choose in *Copland*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ COMEDY

Cultural icon Howard Marks muses at the Shepherds Bush Empire
PERFORMANCE: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

■ MUSIC

The talented young violinist Sarah Chang performs at the Barbican
CONCERT: Sunday
REVIEW: Next week

A Birmingham gallery has made some stunning purchases. **Richard Cork** reports

Three snips for the Barber

Spaciously hung in a handsome gallery at Birmingham University is the choicest small collection of paintings in Britain, property of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. Now, 65 years after it was founded, the Barber is basking in an *annus mirabilis*. With only limited funds at his disposal, its director, Richard Verdi, has made three outstanding acquisitions. They amount to a triple ace, ensuring that a visit to the Barber is even more rewarding than it was before.

The most surprising purchase is an extraordinary art-historical discovery. When the youthful André Derain visited London in 1905 and again the following year, his eruptive views of the Thames and Hyde Park helped to change the course of modern painting. Bold, energetic and blazing with clangorous colour contrasts, they can be ranked among the most radiant achievements of the Fauves, the "wild beasts" of early 20th-century art.

Until now, no portraits by Derain were thought to have survived from his London sojourns. But a painting of Bartolomeo Savona has just emerged from a private collection in Sicily. Quietly owned by Savona's family ever since 1906, it has been bought for £400,000 by the Barber with the aid of £300,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a National Art Collections Fund grant of £50,000.

The portrait was produced as a thank-you present. When Derain stayed in lodgings at Mrs Bradley's Holland Park house during the early months of 1906, he made friends with Savona. Luckily, the young Italian was a language teacher from Palermo who was studying English in London. So when Derain found himself plagued by toothache, Savona acted as his interpreter during a visit to the local dentist. Hugely grateful, Derain painted his Sicilian saviour in three brief headlong sessions, each lasting a mere 20 minutes.

André Derain's *Portrait of Bartolomeo Savona*, painted in 1906: an "extraordinary art-historical discovery"

Like all of Derain's finest 1906 pictures, it is a bravura performance. Savona's alert, companionable features are incisively defined. Despite the formality of his crisp wing-collar and waistcoat, his spirited temperament is conveyed with engaging panache. The jacket seems to surge and buckle with energy, while the sitter's restless locks of hair are enlivened by startling strokes of blue and red.

Derain was proud enough of the portrait to sign it, very prominently, in vehement orange. And his exuberance bursts out even more forcefully on the wall behind, where London's cold winter light is replaced by a lemon-yellow warmth redolent of Savona's Mediterranean home.

The Derain portrait is especially welcome at the Barber, where 20th-century art is hard to find. Before 1967, the institute's trust deed did not allow the gallery to acquire pictures painted after 1899. So the Derain's arrival plays a vital role in the current attempt to build up a proper survey of modern painting.

Older periods are far more comprehensively represented in the collection. But even there, gaps remain. Hitherto, the Barber possessed only one still-life painting. Now, with the purchase of a resplendent canvas by Evaristo Baschenis, it has secured a masterpiece by Italy's most outstanding 17th-century still-life artist. Bought from a Swiss-based trust for £1.2 million, the painting has been obtained entirely with the Barber's own funds. The price will be paid in instalments over the next four years, but Baschenis's imposing image is well worth the sacrifice.

Little-known in Britain, where no other museum owns his work, he excelled at painting musical instruments. The Barber canvas, executed around 1660, brings together a violin, a Spanish guitar, a lute and a spinettino bearing the artist's signature. They are all depicted with consummate precision and a feeling for essential form *that appeals directly to sensibilities* shaped by abstract art today.

But it is also a meditation on transience. The strangely metallic folds of the curtain look as if they might be released at any moment and fall heavily across the objects. An orange rests next to the violin, symbolising pleasure yet in danger of falling from its perch. And the futility of pleasure is reinforced by the violin's broken string.

As for the layer of dust painted so persuasively on the lute, it refers to passing time and the inevitability of decay. Still life becomes, in Baschenis's virtuoso picture, a presentiment of death. But its grandeur remains immensely satisfying, and the artist's loving familiarity with the instruments, made in his native Lombardy by Antonio Stradivari and others, turns the painting into a musical celebration as well.

The third and most expensive of the Barber's prizes is also bound up with music. Anthony Van Dyck's portrait of François Langlois was bought by private treaty from Viscount Cowdray. Acquired jointly with the National Gallery in London, it cost £4.9 million. Once again, the Heritage Lottery Fund played a decisive part, paying just over *£1.8 million of the Barber's half-share.*

The price reflects the immense attractiveness of the painting. Van Dyck could often be aloof or melancholy, particularly in his male portraits. But here, his close friendship with the art dealer Langlois encouraged him to indulge in irresistible vivacity.

A holiday mood prevails. Rejoicing in his subject's skill as an amateur musician, Van Dyck paints Langlois as a Savoyard, a wandering Arcadian shepherd with hound in attendance. Clutching a small bagpipe called a musette, he stops playing for an instant. Something has diverted his attention. Van Dyck catches the spontaneity of Langlois's smile, as he twists his head towards the invisible source of amusement.

The result is the opposite of a stiff, posed portrait. It reveals a streak of mischief in a man who, among other occupations, purchased paintings for Charles I. Negotiating on behalf of such a voracious, competitive collector must have called for cunning as well as charm, and Van Dyck's painting shows Langlois at his most engaging. He seems capable of assuming many *guises, and the portrait's theatricality* helps to explain his success as a much-travelled go-between in the courts of Europe.

But Van Dyck's skilful brush also ensures that Langlois' musicianship is more than a pose. His fingers close on the musette's pipe with dexterity and precision. In a second or two, he will surely resume playing his instrument and dance off into the freshness of the countryside beyond.

Although the three acquisitions can now be seen at the Barber, both the Baschenis and the Derain will travel to London in January for the Royal Academy's major exhibition *The Art Treasures of England: the Regional Collections.* But they belong to Birmingham, and the city has every reason to be proud.

● *The Barber Institute at the University of Birmingham (0121-414 7333) is open Mon-Sat (10am-5pm), Sun (2-5pm)*

Britpop's dead. Long live Britpop

POP

AH, THE irony of it all! Just as the obituaries for Britpop are being written and mourners are muttering under their breath how they never liked it much anyway, one of its foremost figureheads swoops into town and plays such a blinder that the golden goose appears to be anything but cooked.

And yet it's more complex than that. Under the guidance of guitarist Graham Coxon, Blur themselves were ostensibly the first to switch roles from flagwavers to pallbearers. Absconding to Iceland, they recorded the distinctly un-British *Blur* album, and they released as the lead-off single a tongue-in-cheek Beatles pastiche that was seen by some as a none too subtle swipe at Oasis's fixation with all things Lennon and McCartney. The music and tabloid press, who used to wet their Union Jack boxer shorts every time the Blur/Oasis debate reared its tiresome little head, became resentful of Albarn, Coxon and Co for daring to deviate from, and mock, the nation's glorious cultural lineage.

But the media have been made to eat their sour grapes. The previously sceptical Americans were converted with the seminal punk-pop stomp, *Song 2*. And having recently finished a highly successful tour of Australia and South-East Asia, Blur are about to weave their way once again through the big arenas of their native land. To judge by this preface in Dublin, it will be a victory march.

Girls and Boys and *Song 2* nearly caused a teenage riot. *This is a Low* was the band's pre-encore climax and had the audience stridently stamping their approval on the temporary tiered seating around the Point. For their own safety as much as anything else, the band returned for an extended encore that included the enigmatic horn-driven *Theme From Retro* and the trippy *I'm Just a Killer For Your Love* as well as older, more commercially manicured material such as *Parklife*, which came and went in a dizzying "let's get this karaoke singalong out of the way" rush.

No longer a band in denial, the set as a whole sees Blur acknowledge every stage of their career: early pop nuggets like *She's So High* and *There's No Other Way* rub shoulders with more obscure songs like *Colin Zeal* from *Modern Life is Rubbish*.

Albarn's Cheshire-cat-like grin and trademark Olympian roof-reaching leaps contrast with bassist Alex James's statuesque cool — the dangling cigarette, the legs defiantly apart — while Coxon's guitar kicks out the jams with abrasive abandon.

So reports of Blur's death are greatly exaggerated: in fact, they've never sounded more alive.

NICK KELLY

Happy mundane

THERE have been various hospital visits, personnel changes and other colourful dramas since Black Grape played their first London gig two-and-a-half years ago. But the air of loutish anarchy that surrounds the group is deceptive, and although their show last Thursday bore the usual outward marks of impromptu bonhomie, it was actually a disciplined and tightly scripted affair.

Wearing a thick, black puffa coat which he kept buttoned up from start to finish, Shaun Ryder looked more like a window cleaner than a pop star. Whether standing with one hand in his pocket or sitting on the monitor speakers in front of the drums, he was flanked at all times by his partners in rap, Paul "Kermit" Leveridge and Carl "Psycho" McCarthy. Like characters hanging around on a street corner or in a pub the three of them batted lines of patter back and forth with a goofy nonchalance belied only by the sheafs of lyric sheets at Ryder's feet.

Behind them, the group's four instrumentalists worked in a contrastingly anonymous yet fiercely diligent manner. At the musical heart of the matter was the wonderfully fluent bass playing of Danny Williams and the meaty drumming of Ged Lynch. It was their efforts every bit as much as the front line's rabble-rousing vocalese that were responsible for the outbreaks of massed pogoing among the overwhelmingly male audience, particularly on the upbeat grooves of *Squeaky* and *Tell Me Something*.

But the image of rogueish abandon could not entirely disguise the slightly routine feel of this performance. They certainly missed the presence of Bez, their bug-eyed dancer and cheerleader who has left the group, apparently to become a man of letters. And, despite the undoubted dancefloor appeal of *Rubber Band*, *Marbles* and *Get Higher*, these new numbers offered little in the way of advancement or variation on the group's original one-dimensional blueprint.

Initial sales of Black Grape's new album, *Stupid, Stupid, Stupid* have been surprisingly disappointing and, as Ryder found to his cost with Happy Mondays, a non-stop party can be a great idea to begin with, but is a difficult beast to maintain in the medium to long term.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Lean times on a writer's voyage to mutiny

MELVYN BRAGG

It was good to see David Lean's films so well represented in the American Film Institute's recent top hundred. It is interesting to speculate whether a talent such as his would emerge in the 1990s.

He left school at 16 for a job in a film cutting room where he swept the floor and tidied up and hoped for the best. Always acutely conscious of his lack of formal education, he clawed his way up by slow degrees until he became a film editor, or "cutter" as he preferred to call himself. His stroke of luck — you need at least one — was so to impress Noël Coward with his cutting skills that the great all-rounder took him on as co-director for *In Which We Serve*. Coward then gave him *Brief Encounter*, and a great career was launched.

Nowadays I doubt if Lean would get into a film cutting room at any age, or have the opportunity to sweep the floor, take the leavings and hang on. He would be permanently underqualified. Television vacuums up talent and often gives it too much leeway too soon. The worlds of commercials and videos are full of talent zipping up the fast lane. A young Lean would feel like a gump and slide away. (Incidentally, the old Lean, seeing British commercials for the first time as he had not been a television watcher until old age, was mightily struck by their storytelling skill and visual flair.)

There was a romantic innocence about Lean — even as a man of 70, which was when I met him — which seems to have gone underground here in the past few decades, and that is another reason why he would not have been given the start. Far too old-fashioned, with his portrayals of pluck in *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations*; youthful heroism in *Lawrence*; complex, manly heroism in *Kwai* and *Zhivago*. We all pretend to be too sophisticated now; or too cynical; or too defensive.

I met Lean when he asked me to work with him on a script for *Mutiny on the Bounty*. Robert Bolt and he had been toiling on it for about 18 months until a heart attack laid Bolt low. I was asked to take up what had become the outrageous notion not only of doing the remake of the story famously filmed twice, but a remake in two two-hour parts.

I had written film scripts about ten years earlier and some of them had even been made, but writing novels and working in arts TV seemed much more my cup of tea and I had veered away from the big screen. Lean, though, could not be denied. It would be at least an education, I thought — and it was.

His fundamental, undeviating view was that everything had to be in the script. The dialogue, of course, and the drama — but also the positioning of the actors, the precise lighting, the precise cutting, the pauses from music, every single detail. The explanation he gave was that filming was such a messy business, so much activity and fuss and distraction, so many accidents of weather and temperament, so many delays and glitches, that there was no time at all to think of the film. The film was in the script and the script was the Bible. He loved it when people complimented him on a shot or a cut or a line and he could say: "It's all in the script."

There was though, I think, another reason for his compulsive holding to the script. Given his worry about what others might say about his lack of education (at root, of course, he had enormous confidence in his own talent) he wanted no arguments. He disliked them intensely and became peppery. He liked things to be worked out carefully beforehand. Carefully? Laboriously, painfully, painstakingly — and that was how the imagined blueprint was fixed.

When I worked with him he was best at listening to a short scene — it took some getting used to, to read aloud to him — and then setting to work on it. He would twist and turn the lines, there would be long pauses while he "saw" it, sometimes a little acting out, going over it again and again and again until finally it was locked home and appeared to be secured. It would be in the script, and thus it would be shot.

I found it exhausting. Peggy Ramsay, a friend of Bolt's, publicly accused Lean of driving Bolt to his heart attack by his relentless working method, and prophesied the same fate for me. Now and then I feared she could be right.

You must add to Lean's grinding method the usual operatic difficulties of raising film finance (for two equal feature films) and later the threatening to change producers, the impounding of the beautifully reconstructed *Bounty* as a ward of court in New Zealand, and Lean still deep in shock after the critical drubbing he had taken for *Ryan's Daughter*, which had caused him to flee to the South Seas and disappear from celluloid for years. Stir this together and it was indeed exhausting, sometimes screamingly boring and yet, now and then, immensely satisfying because you had contributed to the Script.

We worked in his suite at the top of the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge. He did not like the furniture and, although not a hugely rich man, he and his young wife-to-be went to Harrods and got their own stuff. We were incarcerated in splendour for eight hours a day. I would walk across Hyde Park afterwards feeling mentally dehydrated.

And then there was the Fletcher Christian problem. We fell out badly over Fletcher Christian, which needs a column of its own.

THEATRE: Peter Brook's production does Beckett's metaphorical masterpiece proud; plus a compelling nose arrives in the West End

Cock-eyed optimist

Oh Les Beaux Jours
Riverside Studios

Waiting for Godot, *Endgame* and several of his other plays were written and staged in French before Beckett translated them into English: but with *Happy Days* the process was the opposite. Only after the play had been performed and, on the whole, grudgingly received in New York and London did the Gallic version hit Paris. *Oh Les Beaux Jours* — a title Beckett lifted from a nostalgic poem by Verlaine — was described by *Le Figaro* as a disgusting "*festival d'abjection*", but just about everyone admired the subtlety and depth of Madeleine Renaud as the entombed Winnie.

In the 35 years since then the play has undergone a familiar transformation in Britain, America and France. In the minds of most critics and much of the theatregoing public it has evolved from a boringly pretentious piece of despairing nonsense into a masterpiece of metaphoric daring. Winnie spends the first act buried up to her waist and the second up to her neck; but most of the time she remains cheerily oblivious to the awfulness of her predicament. If you have a smattering of French and want to see an example of human resilience as its most endearingly pointless — a mummy trying to convince itself it is really a tap-dancer, or (more to the point) you and me pretending that our lives have meaning — you should catch *Jours* either at Riverside or on the brief visit it is making to Glasgow's Tramway later this month.

Peter Brook directs with his trademark clarity: Winnie is Natasha Parry; and her habitat is not the usual pile of sand, but a large rocky mound covered with bits of scraggy grass and isolated in a grainy desert with blank grey sky beyond. In the second half, when her prison engulfs her, she gives the impression of something pink and vaguely fungoid sprouting from the stone, scrub and moss; yet even then a certain residual fineness clings to her. She is not just a silly suburbanite babbling about the "great mercies" of a cruel Universe; but a woman with gravity and grace as well as mad myopia in her make-up.

Does this sentimentalise the play? I don't think so. Rather, it makes it clearer than some performances I've seen that Winnie is everywoman, and that everywoman is a category which embraces all classes and intelligences. Indeed, Parry persistently gives the impression that at some level she knows that her life is a meaningless interlude between a long-ago birth and a not-too-distant death. Again and again she repeats the phrase "*et maintenant*" as her incessant chatter reaches a full stop: and the growing vulnerability, grief and panic she injects into it suggests that she must keep talking to avoid facing who and where she is.

The play is not quite a monologue. Much of the time Winnie talks to herself or to the invisible powers beyond; but she does also hanker for the attention of her husband Willy, here played by Jean-Claude Perrin. Though he is required to cut a kind of decrepit dash at the end, his main task is to grunt, snort and make loveless animal noises in his lair behind her head. I can't remember hearing this challenge more robustly met. Overall, I can't recall a finer production of Beckett's tragi-comic attack on the triteness of optimism.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Full-bodied fun with a fruity nose

Cyrano de Bergerac
Lyric

After two months of hard touring on the road the most famous snout in the business has pitched up in the West End, rudely attached to the sweaty, bug-eyed figure of Antony Sher. Sher is not a natural romantic. With his receding hair-line, gypsy beard, saggy pants and chewed-looking jerkin, there is no mistaking him for Rudolph Valentino. Yet he turns in one of the most compelling Cyranos in recent years.

Greg Doran's production of Edmond Rostand's 100-year-old gem has entertainment tattooed all over it. Cyrano's Gascon Cadets are here a provincial Dirty Dozen brimful of football chants, half a dance-step away from a full-blown chorus line. Ken Bones puts in a wonderful performance as the calculating Comte de Guiche, looking rather like Captain Hook when he volunteers the Gascon Cadets for cannon fodder at the siege of Arras.

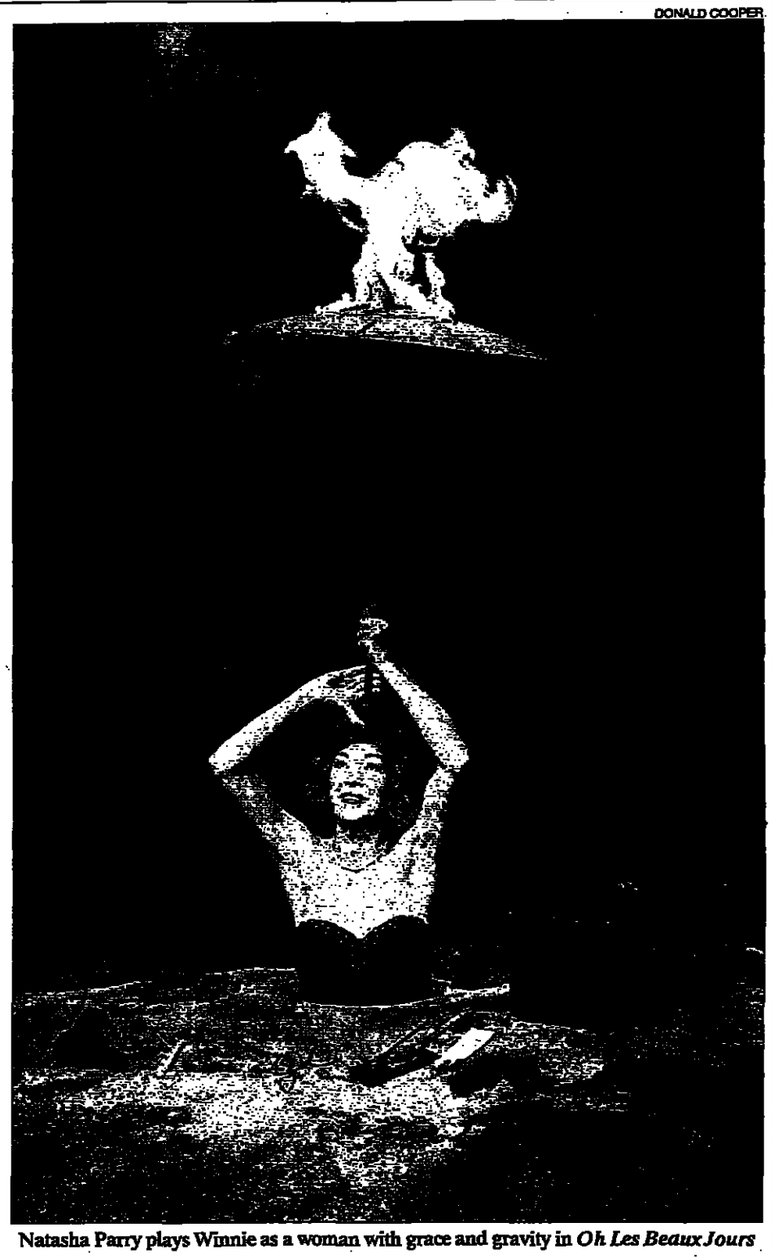
Cyrano skewers authority on his sword as if it were a ham. He makes his entrance via a flying chandelier, gets embroiled in a duel over nasal insults, and establishes his deadly credentials in a running battle in the streets with thugs hired to kill him. But when it comes to love and Roxanne, Sher's Cyrano is full of a schoolboy's vulnerability.

It is the "algebra that appeals" to him when he decides to help his good-looking rival, Christian, to Roxanne's heart. "My wit and your looks" serve their mutual infatuation. Yet the calculation proves lopsided. Alexandra Gilbreath's mesmerising Roxanne exudes a strange, almost kinky fascination with words and letters. She exercises that most underused of Roxannish weapons: a drawling, decadent wit. Being a coquette is not enough. She wants her love embroidered, which it duly is in Anthony Burgess's quite brilliant verse translation and Sher's heartfelt delivery.

Raymond Coulthard plays Christian with all the panache of a ventriloquist's dummy. But it is Roxanne's reaction to the dying Cyrano in the last act that unlocks the play. Her fury at his heroic 15-year silence makes Cyrano's grand passion look like the foolhardy piece of sentimental self-obsessed nonsense it finally is. What Doran's production ultimately reveals is why this folly has the endless capacity to shred the heartstrings.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

DONALD COOPER



Natasha Parry plays Winnie as a woman with grace and gravity in *Oh Les Beaux Jours*

In the mood for romance

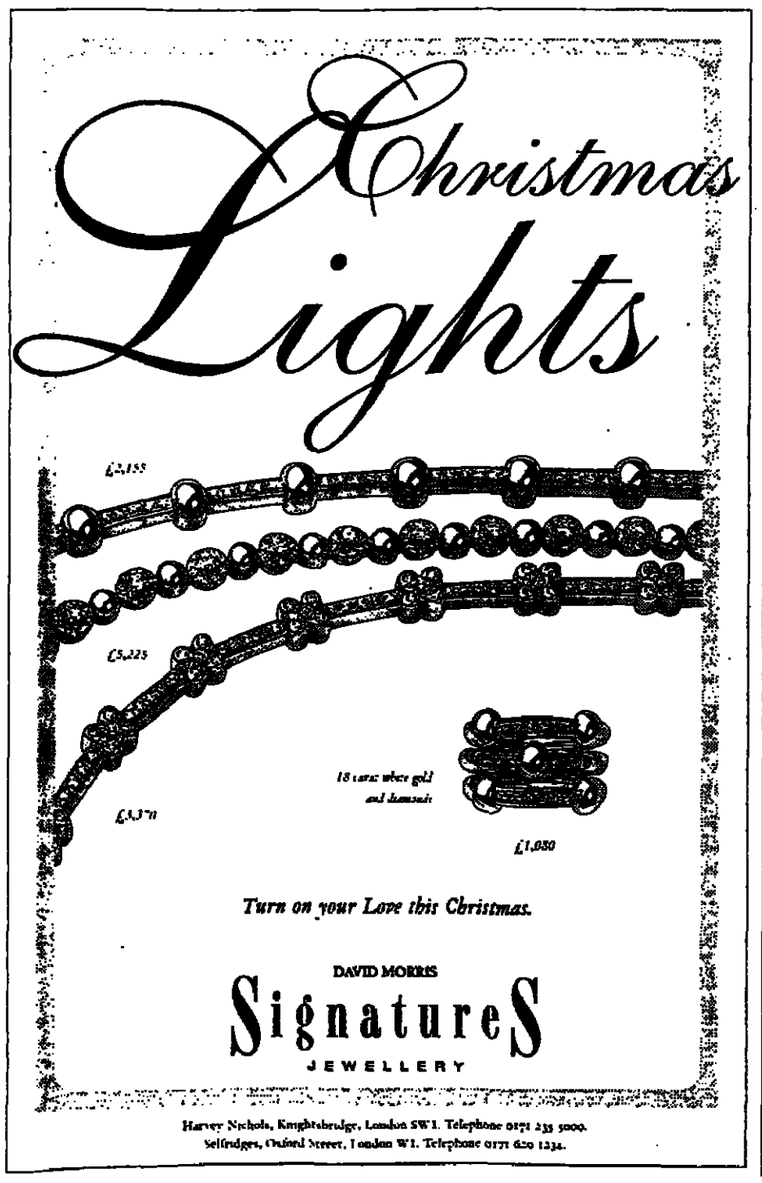
RECITAL
Banse/Bär
Wigmore Hall

AS SCHUBERT year ends, so does Graham Johnson's eight-recital Wigmore Hall series, *Schubert: Rückblick und Wohin?*, which has traced so imaginatively the whence and the whither of the composer in his heritage and inheritance. In the last recital, time was telescoped. None of the songs of Schubert and Schumann was created more than 30 years apart from each other. And, in a typically cunning programme, Johnson devised pairings which revealed not so much the obvious influences as the more elusive shared responses to their common Romantic culture.

The image of a solitary figure in a landscape was central to the Romantic imagination. Here, Schubert's ubiquitous *Wanderer* met Schumann's exile *In der Fremde*, the first eloquently voiced by the baritone Olaf Bär, the second strangely poignant in the soprano of Juliane Banse.

Most revealing of all the pairings was Schumann's *Der schwere Abend* (*The oppressive evening*) and Schubert's *Ihr Bild* (*Her picture*). Here, echoes and threads of association intertwined to point prophetically beyond the Romantic *Zeitgeist* to its natural harvest in the psychology of the subconscious. Schumann's song rings from the abyss with echoes of his own, earlier song of dream and weeping from *Dichterliebe*. And these musical figures resonate chillingly from Schubert's late, dark Heine setting.

HILARY FINCH



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An amazing journey — or just a hoax?

David Abulafia on the tall tale of an ancient traveller

Trumpeted by its publishers as "one of the most important manuscripts ever discovered", *The City of Light* purports to be the travel diary of a Jewish Italian merchant, Jacob d'Ancona, who in 1270 — some four years before Marco Polo — reached the southern shores of China. Incomparably more vivid than the surprisingly tedious, and possibly tendentious, text of Marco Polo, it conjures up images of 13th-century lowlife and high ideals. But is it a hoax?

David Selbourne, the historian and political philosopher, who has translated and edited the text, claims that the manuscript was secretly handed to him, wrapped in a swathe of 17th-century silk, by a citizen of Urbino. Having spent several years translating and editing it, he hotly defends its authenticity. But, unless a medieval manuscript can be produced, the text must be judged on internal evidence. And, though enormously entertaining, it contains egregious historical errors.

Most people who have expressed a view have been experts on China. My own perspective is that of someone who has written about the Adriatic port of Ancona itself, about the Jews of Italy and about the great Levant trade that linked Italy to the Middle East and tapped into the spice trade coming from the East Indies. From this angle, the long-suffering Rabbi Jacob is not a credible figure.

Ancona had pretensions to becoming a trading rival of its far greater neighbour Venice; indeed, Venice suppressed voyages from Ancona to the rich ports of the East, just at the time when Jacob is supposed to have travelled there. In the end Venice faced Ancona and its ally, Genoa, in open war on the streets of the great crusader city of Acre, in modern Israel.

The result was that the Genoese were forced out of Acre, which Venetians flattened to make sure they would not return. It is, therefore, incredible that Jacob reports on Acre in exactly the opposite terms to what is known to have happened, so that the city teems with the merchants of Genoa and Ancona just when they were being kept out.

Such errors, of the sort a contemporary could not possibly make, abound. Forging ahead through the Middle East, Jacob mentions merchants from Italy in Iraq and Aden, at a time when journeys by merchants to these destinations were out of the question. The glory days of the Jewish spice traders based in Yemen, acting as intermediaries between Egypt and the Indies, were long past. The Muslims ensured that only Muslim merchants (and certainly not Rabbi Jacob) could pass through the Red Sea.

Jacob tells, too, of finely fitted galleys with agreeable staterooms setting out on the Indian Ocean, owned by a certain Arron of Barcelona, the "great Jew of Aragon". Such a figure can easily be shown to be a figment of the imagination, following nonexistent trade routes on impossible ships.

The oddest feature of the text, however, is the description of social evils presented both by Jacob himself and by Pitaco, a conservative dignitary of the Chinese city of Zaitun. We should read this as an invective against 20th-century habits (indeed, Selbourne tells us that Pitaco's discussion influenced his own book on *The Principle of Duty*). Zaitun is given over to uncontrolled sexual freedom. We are repeatedly told that young women walk around in immodest, revealing clothes (among them many lesbians), engaging liberally in sexual intercourse. "Some women give their bodies freely to all, believing that she who has had more men is more pleasing than the rest." Homosexual acts are presented as entirely normal, equal to heterosexual love, an attitude that Pitaco deplores. Transvestites abound.

Single mothers are a common feature of society; slimming has become a craze among young women. Older women are obsessed with preserving the appearance of youth, "applying costly salves each day to their skin so that it may remain tender and soft".

The streets of Zaitun have become dangerous because they are full of drug addicts and muggers. Fashions in music have changed for the worse, and all one hears is raucous sounds from Hell. Euthanasia is freely practised, and no one mourns at funerals. Children are allowed to do as they please, and the view is taken by supporters of the new order that they should be free to pursue their education at whatever speed they wish.

Zaitun even has its own equivalent of pop stars and supermodels: "So depraved are the citizens of Zaitun that the most beautiful of the harlots are considered as goddesses by both men and women, who follow them as they go, while the young seek to copy not only the manner of their clothes or the colours with which they adorn their faces, but the very sound of their voices when they speak or sing."

It is a picture of a society teetering on the brink of the abyss, ignoring the terrible fate that awaits it (the Mongols are only a little way over the horizon), while it immerses itself in hedonism. Yet it also contains an account of our own society, deeply hostile to modern trends.

The highly coloured account of Jacob's exploration of this new Sodom and Gomorrah culminates when he unwillingly finds himself watching a live sex show. Nonetheless, he still describes it in exhaustive detail. Jacob also looks at one point to the future, offering an unmistakable prophecy of a Holocaust and the return of the Jews to their ancestral land. But the greatest warning this unclaimed prophet of Israel is making seems to be directed at the social condition of the West around 2000. It seems that David Selbourne has provided the world not with a Jewish Marco Polo, but with a Jewish Gulliver.

David Abulafia is Reader in Mediterranean History at Cambridge University and a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College.

When high-minded moralists are in full cry with the law to support them, let the liberal take cover

We have no right to hound huntsmen

William Rees-Mogg

The ocean bed of history is littered with the wreckage of moral Armadas. On August 28, 1643, quite early in the Civil War, Parliament passed "an ordinance of the Lords and the Commons assembled, for the utter demolishing, removing and taking away of all monuments of superstition or idolatry". In May of the following year, this was extended to include church organs and their "frames or cases". The result was the wholesale "stripping of the altars" in which stained glass windows were broken, statues defaced or destroyed, wooden carvings burnt, crucifixes torn down and church music and the Book of Common Prayer outlawed. To this day Britain suffers from the loss of the treasure of medieval art. Yet this vandalism did express the will of Parliament and the dominant Puritan mood of the country.

The first Puritan colonists of New England had no medieval statues to destroy, but they applied an equally authoritarian morality to private life. Massachusetts enacted a statute making adultery a capital offence. The 17th-century historian of the colony, Cotton Mather, recorded the names and circumstances of the men and women who were hanged.

In May 1895, Oscar Wilde was sentenced to two years' penal servitude with hard labour under the recently passed Criminal Law Amendment Act, which made homosexual conduct illegal. The Act's prohibitions were not repealed until the 1960s and thousands of other men were exposed to blackmail or sent to prison. In 1919 the United States ratified the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution which prohibited "the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors". Prohibition was a failure and was repealed in 1933: people could not be coerced by the criminal law into becoming teetotallers. An entrenched system of organised crime was left behind which now makes far greater profits out of drugs than it ever did from drink.

In each of these cases, high-minded people used the criminal law to impose their morality on those who disagreed with them; in each case the attempt failed, but not before it had done great damage. The Parliament of 1643 failed to prevent people singing in church or praying to Mary; the Puritans of Massachusetts failed to stamp out adultery, which to this day is not unknown in Boston; the Criminal Law Amendment Act failed to stamp out homosexual conduct; the Eighteenth Amendment failed to stop people drinking. Yet the statues and the stained glass were destroyed, the farmer's wife who slept with the handyman was hanged, Wilde did suffer in Reading Gaol and the Mafia did get to organise American crime.

In all these cases there were two separate arguments. The first argument was on the moral question itself and the second on the appropriate legal response. The Puritans were entitled to argue that statues of saints could encourage superstition, or even that they amounted to the idolatry forbidden in the Ten Commandments. These were serious issues for them. Yet even if they had been right, they would not have been justified in passing a law to destroy works of great beauty, or in creating a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment, of using the Book of Common Prayer. It is the same with adultery, homosexuality and alcohol. People are entitled to have their own moral views; where they go wrong is when they make actions criminal because they disapprove of them.

This is the mistake of the 411 Members of the House of Commons who voted to make hunting with hounds a criminal offence. There are two possible views of the morality of hunting, which were put with great force by two splendidly independent-minded women, Kate Hoey and Ann Widdecombe, each speaking against the majority of opinion in her own party. The moral case against hunting is straightforward — it is that it involves avoidable cruelty to animals. The moral defence is that it involves less cruelty and less danger of leaving animals crippled but alive than the alternative methods of culling — the gun, the trap or poison. Hounds bad, guns good, is a hard case for the 411 to argue. One weakness of the anti-hunting case in the debate was that its proponents were not prepared to universalise it. Other field sports, shooting and fishing, are just as cruel but are not to be prohibited. Indeed, shooting and fishing are morally more objectionable. Foxes are wild animals, predators on the farm stock, whose numbers have to be reduced by some means or another. Pheasants and some fish are bred to be killed for sport; there is no need to cull them, as they would not be there if the sport did not call them into existence. If it is cruel to shoot a pheasant — and it is — it is wrong to breed a pheasant in order to shoot it. From the moral point of view it is absurd to distinguish killing on horseback from killing in gumboots, or killing with dogs from killing with fishhooks.

I doubt whether any of us who are not vegetarians can logically distinguish our own conduct from that of foxhunters. Anyone who enjoys a plate of spring lamb, with peas, new potatoes and mint sauce, has taken the moral responsibility for the chain of events that took the lamb out of the field and put it on the plate. An abattoir lies behind the chef, even in the best of restaurants. I respect the absolutist argument that the human species should never willingly cause suffering to animals, but I do not accept the argument that hunting with hounds is a unique form of causing suffering which should be made criminal, while shooting and fishing are still acceptable, and eating meat is unquestioned.

Only two Labour MPs, Llin Golding and Kate Hoey, voted against the Bill. That raises the suspicion that new Labour may prove as authoritarian as old Labour, though it has changed the subjects it is authoritarian about. The Liberal Democrat vote was more interesting; they split 27 to 14 in favour of the Bill. This naturally reflects the communities they represent: Liberals from the deep countryside tended to vote against the Bill, while urban and suburban Liberals tended to voted for it. It also partly reflected the split in Liberal Democratic ideology; some Liberals are little "l" liberals, but most of them nowadays are not.

The core of historic liberalism is that adults should not be coerced in making moral choices. This was the central belief of the founder of liberal philosophy, John Locke. One finds it whether he is writing about education or psychology, political rights or toleration.

Moral choices are for the individual, not for the State, provided that they do not damage other members of society. This was the doctrine Thomas Jefferson put into the Declaration of Independence; it is the doctrine of John Stuart Mills's essay on "Liberty". A liberal respects the consciences of other people. An authoritarian, of Left or Right, imposes his conscience on other people.

This rule must itself be subject to the need to protect children as well as to protect the interests of other adults. For a liberal, the difficulty of the abortion issue lies in the conflict between the right to choose of the mother and the right to life of the baby. We do not live in a society which accepts an absolute right to life to all animals, though the Jains do so in India.

Given that our public morality is both partial and inconsistent, we should not impose it on citizens through the criminal law. It would be as monstrous to imprison Camilla Parker Bowles for hunting with the Beaufort as it was to send Oscar Wilde to Reading Gaol.

You aren't listening, Mr Hague

The Tories are still ignoring the message of the voters, says **Peter Riddell**

The House of Commons came alive on Friday for the first time since the election. The chamber was packed for five hours, several memorable speeches were made and, at the end, 85 per cent of MPs voted. How different from the normal lacklustre days at Westminster. Of course, hunting provokes fierce passions, but Friday was exceptional primarily because it had little to do with the conventional party battle, which is largely lifeless since the May 1 convulsion. The Government retains an authority, and the Opposition a lack of credibility, because of what voters decided seven months ago.

The Government has not yet really been put under pressure. Until the rumblings over single-parent benefits, new Labour MPs have been noted mainly for naive zealotry, as some of their toadying questions to Tony Blair show. Most ministers are still revelling in their exercise of power and their realisation how little Westminster matters compared with interest groups, the media, and so on. Moreover, the switch to holding Prime Minister's Questions once a week has meant that Mr Blair has seemed more distant. Admittedly, he spends time in the House on Wednesday afternoons. But he has not voted once since the Commons returned five weeks ago.

But the real reason that the Government has had its own way is the feebleness of the Opposition — or, to be precise, the Tories, since the expanded band of Liberal Democrats have been quite effective. The current Tory performance is the worst I have ever seen, worse even than that of Labour under Michael Foot, who at least had several heavyweights such as Denis Healey on the front bench.

William Hague is more victim than cause of this malaise. Of course, he is inexperienced, has a mixed bag of close advisers, and has made some big errors, notably over Europe, which have both further threatened the party's long-term electoral chances. But he has been a confident public performer. Mr Hague has also been bold and right in his proposed shake-up of the Tory organisation. But his poll ratings are abysmal. This can be put down to his unfamiliarity, but the Tories have a real problem in getting the public to know, like and respect Mr Hague.

The Tories' main difficulty is that they remain tarnished in most voters' minds. The Blackpool conference failed to draw a line under the past. Every time Michael Howard, Sir Brian Mawhinney and other former ministers speak, people think of the last Government. Sir Brian was more convincing on Friday in putting the libertarian case against a ban on hunting than he has ever been talking about crime. Some spokesmen, such as John Maples and Francis Maude, who were not in the last Parliament, have been more convincing.

The absence of such past associations is not enough. Iain Duncan Smith had no part in the last administration. Promoted straight to the Shadow Cabinet, he is for ever seizing on press reports of ministerial splits and the like to claim in strident terms that the Government is in chaos or has made another U-turn. But that is adolescent politics. Mr Duncan Smith, a man of charm and intelligence, should think more before he speaks.

John Redwood tends to be singled out as one of the few Shadow Cabinet successes. He is certainly energetic and has landed some punches. At times, his wide range of activities makes it seem as if he is still running for the leadership. But not only can his public appearances often appear gauche, as at last week's *Spectator* awards, but his daily, even hourly, comments often lack much sense of context, or proportion.

The party is also handicapped by having so few MPs, the relative inactivity of some veteran backbenchers and former ministers, and the inexperience of the new intake. The latter includes several bright and promising MPs, but some, particularly from safe seats in the South, are still displaying the cocky bumptiousness that so put off voters in May.

The Tories' tone is wrong. It is shrill, and seems like opposition for the sake of it, when the public is still giving the Government the benefit of the doubt. Of course, the Tories should criticise flaws in Labour's approach. But they will be persuasive only when they show signs of realising what went wrong, as is recognised by some shrewder strategists involved in the policy review.

For instance, one reason why the Tories lost is that they failed to offer policies to deal with the social dislocation and insecurities created by globalisation, privatisation and the opening up of free markets. Ministers in the Major Government never understood that talking about the "enterprise centre of Europe" was not enough. Social cohesion also matters. Maintaining the right balance will be one of the hardest tasks for governments over the next decade, as President Clinton's recent rebuff on trade negotiations shows.

The Tories should also be more positive over constitutional reform. They have understandable worries about the implications of Labour's plans in destabilising current arrangements. But that should be an opportunity to revive the eminently Tory theme of "checks and balances" to limit the power of the executive and Whitehall, as both Robert Alexander and Chris Patten have recently urged. After so many years of neglect, Sir Norman Fowler has initiated a review of local government. The Tories should be challenging Labour in the debate, rather than reacting.

The passage of time, and disenchantment with the Government, will give the Opposition its opportunity. But the Tories will only seize it if they recognise — as the Blairites did in the early 1990s — that merely acting like an Opposition is not enough. Reinventing themselves as a potential party of government is essential.

Fowled up

WHAT is Sir Norman Fowler up to? As Shadow Environment Secretary, you might assume he is defending the countryside against roads and houses. It is hard to tell. He farms out responsibility for both issues to his deputies, Tim Yeo and Chris Chope — to the chagrin of some of his constituents in Sutton Coldfield. The first toll motorway, the Birmingham northern relief road, is about to cut a grim swath through the area.

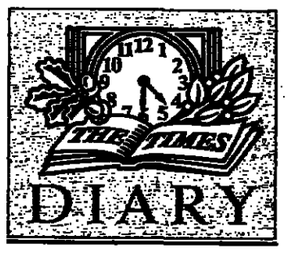
Swampy and fellow "eco-warriors" are already sharpening their trowels, but Sir Norman does not speak up on the issue. It was last raised at Environment Questions in the Commons on July 29 — and Sir Norman stayed silent.

Sir Norman says he does not speak as a Shadow minister because of his directorship of Aggregate Industries, which makes money from roads. "I can still speak in my role as MP, I just choose not to. The issue has already been decided by a public inquiry." Nor does he pipe up on the Government's plans to build more than four million new homes. This, he says, is not because he is a chairman of the National House Building Council, a consumer protection body set up by the construction industry, but because the issue "falls naturally within Tim Yeo's portfolio".

Green types are alarmed. Jonathan Dimbleby, former president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, says: "It is important that the debate is not restricted" But, more alarmingly, Swampy and his followers are cross. One, a Mr Muppet Dave, says: "This road will wreak havoc. Where does Sir Norman stand?"

Shhhh — Fowler, Muppet Dave

● *New Tories, new naughtiness. One of the stalls at the Conservative Women's Conference last week included a fetching array of novelties, including bottom soap (pink), rude pasta and "grow your own willies", whatever they may be.*



Reignited

POOR Tessa Jowell's torture is far from complete. Tomorrow the Health Minister will again be made scapegoat for the Government's tobacco U-turn, when she defends the move before the European Standing Committee B. Every Member can join this parliamentary firing squad, and the Tories are preparing their ammunition. Said one salivating Tory: "The whips are urging everyone to attend. It should be quite an ambush."

● *MICHAEL PORTILLO's political comeback is temporarily on hold. The Tories' leader-in-exile was to give various television interviews last weekend to set out his new political philosophy — but he pulled out to attend a family get-together in Spain.*

Talent Scout

JOHN MAJOR's old Scout troop is facing closure. So the 1st Old Maldens, where he bob-a-jobbed in his youth, has asked the former Prime Minister to whip out his woggle and help.

The sound of dyb-dyb-dybbing has echoed around the hut since the 1940s, but Scout leader John Eggit wants to hang up his baggy khaki shorts after 25 years. For the past couple of years he has searched, without joy, for a replacement — so he is calling out to Mr Major, once a keen young Cub in the group.

"I am hoping for a miracle," he says. "I had thought someone would come forward from the ranks of our former Scouts."

Major is out of the country, and has yet to hear the cries of help, but his family sympathises. "John will be very sad," says his sister, Pat Dessoy, who remembers the young Major grabbing his cap and scurrying off to Akela. "I blame political correctness." Terry Major-Ball is less nostalgic. "I didn't join a Scout group, but then John was always allowed out more than me."

"We have formulated our response to global warming"

A James Bond suit worn by Sean Connery in *Diamonds are Forever*, above, will be sold at Christie's next week. With Pierce Brosnan showing the wimpish face of modern Bond in *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the latest in the saga, this navy blue, single-breasted number from the golden age of 007 is expected to fetch about £8,000. Buyers note: prepare to be stirred by the suit's rather outré satin lapels.

Cat calls

FIRST fat cats, now big cats. The Government has been asked to investigate a mysterious four-legged beast seen prowling the Norfolk Broads.

Keith Simpson, the Conservative Member for Norfolk Mid, is so concerned by reports of a "large cat" stalking local wildlife he is tabling a question to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, asking: "What responsibility does the Government have for monitoring sightings of big cats?"

"I thought it was an old wives' tale, but there have been numerous sightings of a very big cat," says Mr Simpson, himself rather obscure. So what exactly is Norfolk's answer to the Beast of Bodmin? "It might be some kind of puma," guesses the former Sandhurst lecturer, who is used to dealing with fierce animals — he advised Tom King when he was Defence Secretary.

● *Warming news reaches me from the Commons, where the Non-Profit Making Members' Clubs Group has just held its AGM. Dennis Turner, treasurer, proudly announced a successful year. It made more than £1,000 profit.*

JASPER GERARD

NO FAULT OR FLAW

Lord Irvine's hauteur does not invalidate his strategy

The office of Lord Chancellor is the most curious in the Cabinet. He is at once the head of the judiciary, the peer who presides over the upper chamber in the legislature and, as the Cabinet minister responsible for law reform, at the heart of the executive. He sits at the centre of the British constitution as an historic exception to the democratic doctrine of the separation of powers. The Lord Chancellor's position was an ermined anomaly when Montesquieu drew up the dividing lines for a rational constitution, and for a modernising Government his office might seem riper for reform than other less-cobwebbed corners of the State.

This Government's Lord Chancellor, however, far from shedding responsibilities, has been stuffing his Woolsack with new portfolios. Lord Irvine of Lairg's ambitions and reach have unsettled some, including Cabinet colleagues and the press, but as our legal correspondent reports today he is nothing abashed. Lord Irvine has mounted a spirited defence of his responsibilities in tandem with a call for other colleagues to become less possessive about their departmental privileges. His stance may seem, at first sight, an arrogant one for a politician who owes his position to patronage rather than election but Lord Irvine's arguments are in this case powerfully made and, for the most part, persuasive.

Lord Irvine is not a man burdened with false humility. His comparison of his own position to Thomas Wolsey's, his declaration that the Lord Chancellor is "once again one of the principal advisers of the political leader of the country" and his judicious verdict that "I think this is as it should be" indicate that, whatever the meek may have inherited in New Britain, it does not include the Woolsack.

Lord Irvine's detractors may hear in these words an echo of *Iolanthe* when another Lord Chancellor defended the dignities of his office: "The Law is the True embodiment. Of everything that's excellent. It has no kind of fault or flaw, And I, my Lords, embody the Law." Yet, *although the comparison to* Cardinal Wolsey suggests Lord Irvine has something still to learn about hubris, the thrust of his case deserves to be heeded. The strong meat of his message does not need to be so richly sauced.

The concentration of powers which the Lord Chancellor enjoys can make government better co-ordinated. It is only the constitutional quietism of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, and the concentration on legal reform of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, which have created the impression that the post is a Gothic outhouse of government rather an engine for administrative efficiency. Defending his chairmanship of the "Star Chamber", Lord Irvine points out that the holder of his office is well-suited to arbitrate between colleagues because he himself has no further political ambitions. That distance from the greasy pole is powerful justification for the range of responsibilities he currently enjoys. The intellectual self-confidence he also enjoys ensures that he can challenge bad arguments within the Government better than others with an eye on advancement.

The range of powers he deploys, as Lord Irvine points out, has a "logical coherence". The Lord Chancellor is the obvious figure to be this administration's "constitution czar" as well as conduit between judiciary and government. Some aspects of the Government's constitutional reform programme are potentially destructive of this country's balanced settlement. Some of Lord Irvine's own thoughts on press regulation are positively dangerous. But this particular reform that Lord Irvine argues for on our front page is plain Scots common sense.

The Lord Chancellor wants to end the "turf wars" between civil service departments. The practice Lord Irvine identifies of ministerial briefs marked "not to be disclosed" to Cabinet colleagues smacks of *insecurity, a need to use secrecy and surprise* to advance a case rather than candid merit. The willingness of some ministers to argue for the vested interests of their departmental bureaucracy impedes the coherent dispatch of government business and Lord Irvine is right to want to knock heads together. He must just take care that his own does not grow too big in the process.

THE CZECH THATCHER

Vaclav Klaus's policies deserve to outlast his political eclipse

The free-market convictions of Vaclav Klaus have dominated the Czech political agenda ever since the Communist Party succumbed, almost precisely eight years ago, to the Velvet Revolution. On the international scene, Mr Klaus may have been the "other Vaclav", a second fiddle to President Vaclav Havel's silky violin. But at home, first as *Finance Minister and since 1992 as post-*communist Europe's longest-serving Prime Minister, his decisions have been those that counted. His shoes will be hard to fill.

His unwilling departure yesterday from political life comes at the end of a year in *which his grip over the fractious govern*ment coalition has clearly been weakening. The country has serious economic troubles, many of them attributable to policy failures that this supremely self-confident man took too long to acknowledge and remedy. Because Czechs believed Mr Klaus's premature boast, back in the boom year of 1995, that the country had come through the pain of transition and was now a "normal" market economy, rising unemployment and a return to austerity budgets have had a shattering effect on public confidence both in politics and in capitalism itself. Trade unions protesting against cuts led this month's anti-Government demonstrations in Prague, the largest since 1989.

Like Margaret Thatcher, whose steely Central European equivalent he is, Mr Klaus made as many enemies *inside his* party as outside it as he frogmarched the Czech Republic towards a market economy. Like her, he fell victim to a palace coup, engineered by close colleagues with the open support of the President himself. But unlike Baroness Thatcher, the immediate cause of his departure was a political funding scandal to which Mr Klaus insists that he was not privy, but which is explosive because the donor, a businessman, won the privatisation tender for a Czech steelworks.

To many Czechs this affair, relatively minor in itself, symbolises the mismanagement, insider dealing and white-collar crime that have flawed the controversial mass privatisation strategy pushed through by Mr Klaus between 1992 and 1994. In theory, this transferred state assets to individual shareholders. But in practice, bank-controlled investment funds rapidly established control over them. In many cases, they exploited lax regulation to strip *assets; outright fraud robbed 750,000 people* — 7 per cent of Czechs — of their savings.

Mr Klaus was too slow to see that free markets need rules. This year, bad loans piled up as growth faltered, partly because steep wage rises had priced the country out of international markets. But it was only after foreign confidence in the Czech economy and currency collapsed in May that his Government started remedial action.

Having demanded and obtained the resignation of the entire Government, President Havel is attempting to form a new one from the existing centre-right coalition. That would be better by far than bringing forward the 2000 elections, which could be won by an unpalatable coalition of Socialists and the ultra-Right. The most promising next Prime Minister would be Ivan Pilip, the *young Finance Minister who clearly under*stands that to surmount its current difficulties the Czech Republic needs more, not less, fiscal, welfare and free-market reforms. Mr Klaus's errors have been those of implementation, not of strategy; in rejecting his acerbic leadership, the country's politicians *must not depart from the modernising mess*age he has so formidably struggled to instil.

DR ARNOLD'S DISCIPLES

Montserratian children can teach English schools a lesson

Duty, devotion and discipline, the stern Victorian values that once were strictly enforced by plume-hatted governors on millions of Britain's colonial subjects, live on in the little island societies where the Union Flag still flies. To the astonishment of teachers, parents and red-faced education officials, the children who fled with their families from the volcano-stricken island of Montserrat have brought with them to school in England a set of old-fashioned virtues and attitudes that have long disappeared from Britain's inner cities.

They are attentive, respectful and hard-working. Scrubbed and neatly dressed, they arrive at school on time, are properly grounded in the three Rs and respond to traditional teaching methods. In short, their extraordinary attitude has made them an educational problem. Most are at least a year ahead of their British classmates, and *distraught* teachers are unable to hold them back. It is all so unexpected. The Caribbean, as every jetsetter knows, is a lazy paradise where holiday sun and indolence mix in equal measure. It is the last place a Briton would look to find an old-fashioned work ethic or the lingering influence of Dr Arnold.

Such British myopia, sadly, is one reason why this country has responded so hamfistedly to the volcanic catastrophe on Montserrat. The island may be a tourist hideaway; but it is also a close-knit, God-fearing, traditional society. Schools teach reading, writing and maths, enter pupils for GCE O levels rather than the easier GCSE, ban smoking and whack miscreants firmly on the palm with a ruler. These staunch people have been not a little offended to be branded in their hour of need as greedy layabouts by snidely patronising officials in London.

What should now be done with these scholarly little refugees? They could, of course, be exposed to the full range of extra-curricular activities in Britain's inner cities, in the certainty that this would soon pull them back to the level of their classmates. They could be encouraged as role models, with native pupils urged to follow and learn from overseas example, a quaint reversal of the colonial experience. Or they could simply be allowed to rise to the top of the form — or indeed of the form above — and presented with old-fashioned prizes. A golden elephant each, perhaps, and a handshake from Clare Short?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Preserving life at all costs or simply prolonging dying?

From Mr Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw (Labour)

Sir, Cardinal Basil Hume ("The death of trust", November 27) says "the advocates of euthanasia are on the march" and strongly condemns my Doctor Assisted Dying Bill, which I will introduce in Parliament on December 10.

My Bill is not about euthanasia. Euthanasia is mercy killing. My Bill simply gives the right to terminally ill patients to shorten their life by choice. Nobody can kill them, but they would, by law, be able to die with dignity when they could no longer bear the suffering or distress.

Two requests would have to be made and agreed by both the doctor and a specialist consultant in that illness. The request could be withdrawn at any time.

No doctor who is a relative of the patient or a business partner would be allowed to prescribe. No doctor could be compelled to accede to the request, but would have to transfer the patient to another doctor if asked to do so.

The coroner's office would impose safeguards. The Department of Health would draw up a code of practice, and penalties for not complying with the law would constitute a criminal offence, liable to imprisonment not exceeding 14 years.

The current legislation regarding the administration of pain-killing drugs which may shorten life is full of uncertainty. The patient has no say in the decision. All he can hope for is a sympathetic doctor who may or may not be prepared to accede to a request for a merciful, dignified end, when the patient chooses.

Both doctor and patient need to know what the law is. Annie Lindsell's heartrending attempt to get the High Court to define the law (report, October 29) showed that it lacked clarity and was ambiguous.

Cardinal Hume states: "Clearly, life need not be preserved at all costs when a person is already dying." Why then should a terminally ill patient not have the right to choose?

Very few merciful voters would deny them that right.

Yours etc,
JOE ASHTON,
House of Commons.
November 28.

From the General Secretary of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Sir, Cardinal Hume is training his fire on those who campaign for the right of terminally ill patients to die with dignity. However, he is doomed to *failure because the wishes of the gen*eral public — 82 per cent according to *British Social Attitudes, 1996* (see also "When there is life without hope", Law, December 10, 1996) — will ultimately prevail.

The reason for public support is not *difficult to discover. Anodyne words* that no one need die in distress because of palliative hospice care do not accord with their experience. Neither do they subscribe to the Pope's edict that suffering is part of God's saving plan.

A *BMA News Review survey* (September 4, 1996) of more than 750 doctors showed a small majority of those who responded supporting a change in the law. A survey in the medical journal *Pulse* (November 1) showed that out of 200 doctors who had *replied 93 had eased a patient's death* and just under half felt that to do so would be right. By helping patients to die these doctors are placing their careers and liberty at risk. But these unregulated acts are open to abuse.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN OLIVER,
General Secretary,
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society,
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8.
November 27.

From the Reverend Dr John Searle

Sir, Cardinal Hume is right to point out that the experience of euthanasia in Holland should warn us against making voluntary euthanasia lawful and that the experience of hospices in the United Kingdom should remind us that there is a better way of caring for the terminally ill.

What began in Holland as the ending of life because people considered their suffering intolerable has become the ending of their lives without request because others consider their quality of life intolerable.

Palliative care services are poorly developed in Holland. In contrast, over the last five years the Exeter Hospice *has looked after over 3,000 ter*minally ill people at home and as in-patients. None have asked for their lives to be ended.

It cannot be in a person's best interests for doctors to use drugs or other methods to prolong dying. When it is *clear that that is happening it is surely* right to withdraw them, even though death will occur sooner than it would have done if they were continued.

It was this principle which the courts applied to Tony Bland, who was in a *permanent vegetative state after the injuries he received in the* Hillsborough football disaster.

Cardinal Hume is, I think, mistaken to suggest that this was passive euthanasia. Rather, it was recognising that the essential "humanness" of Tony Bland had been destroyed and *medical treatment was prolonging his* dying.

Such an approach neither undermines Christian belief in the sanctity of life nor supports the case for making voluntary euthanasia lawful.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SEARLE
(Consultant anaesthetist
and Anglican priest),
8 Thornton Hill, Exeter, Devon.
November 27.

Action imperative on climate change

From the Director of the WWF-UK and others

Sir, In a statement released on November 24 more than 600 leading European climate scientists urged agreement at the forthcoming climate change summit in Kyoto on substantive and immediate action for curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

They list the "irreversible risks to society and nature" arising from sea-level rise, crop losses, forest destruction and the expanded range of pests and pathogens, and they call for nations "to set limits on the increase in global temperatures due to human interference".

The scientists are right. If we listen to the arguments of the fossil fuel lobby, as is happening in the US, and allow greenhouse gas emissions to continue unchecked, we impose an irretrievable burden upon future generations.

The European Union has shown admirable leadership by calling for a 15 per cent cut in emissions by 2010; the scientists endorse this as a "positive first step, consistent with long-term climate protection". In the face of blandishments from the US, the EU must stand firm. The efforts of single-interest groups, such as the US-based fossil fuel lobby, must not be allowed to derail the Kyoto negotiations.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN PELLEW, Director,
WWF-UK,
SIMON LYSTER
(The Wildlife Trusts),
PETER MADDEN (Green Alliance),
PETER MELCHETT (Greenpeace),
CHARLES SECRETT
(Friends of the Earth),
BARBARA YOUNG (RSPB),
Panda House,
Weyside Park, Catteshall Lane,
Godalming, Surrey.
November 26.

A future for hunting?

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier

Sir, From Friday's Commons vote on the hunting Bill (reports, November 29) it seems tolerably certain that Parliament will soon make the sport illegal, despite the wishes of many.

I have spent much of my life in Germany where, ironically, the hunting of wild animals with hounds was largely made illegal before the war by the Nazis. When the British Army became subject to German law we had a pack of bloodhounds.

A British tabloid newspaper soon heard that arrogant British officers were hunting down their own soldiers and sent a reporter to investigate. *Hidden in a hedge with his camera,* he was soon rewarded with the sight of a wretched man panting past him, clearly running for his life. Soon after he heard the fearful sound of a pack of bloodhounds in full cry and watched as the great beasts came by, giving tongue from their slavering jaws. Close behind galloped a great body of horsemen.

At great risk to himself, the reporter, dragging himself through hedges and fences, was in at the kill. To his astonishment, he found the runner to be a young officer, while at least half of the riders were mounted troopers. Hounds meanwhile were covering their quarry with friendly licks. Bloodhounds have, of course, no killing instinct but will follow a single scent with undivided attention.

Herein perhaps lies the future of hunting and, who knows, perhaps the hunt saboteurs, who clearly enjoy a day in the country, may volunteer to run the lines to make it as difficult as possible for the horsemen. Then perhaps we can all live happily ever after.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STANIER,
As from: The Cavalry and
Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1.
29 November.

Victims of crime

From Mr H. W. Haslam

Sir, Does not the suggestion that victims of crime are to have a say on sentences (In brief, November 25) confuse the purposes of the civil and criminal aspects of the law?

The views and interests of victims have their place in consideration of compensation. The sentencing of an offender, however, should be concerned with the public interest: the discouragement of crime, the protection of society and the punishment and rehabilitation of the offender.

The individual views of the victim, be they vindictive or forgiving, should not influence the setting of an appropriate sentence in accordance with these objectives, except insofar as the victim may be particularly at risk from a repeat offence.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY HASLAM,
Stanton Lodge Extension,
Thurlby Lane,
Stanton on the Wolds, Nottingham.
November 26.

Sport letters, page 36

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Concern over Labour's plans for out-of-school childcare

From the Director of the Family Education Trust

Sir, We often hear it said that as a nation we pride ourselves in giving priority to the needs of children. It is therefore remarkable that the Government has announced the setting up of 30,000 out-of-school clubs at the cost of £300 million, to be manned by, among others, 50,000 young people recruited under the Welfare to Work scheme (reports, November 26).

Some serious questions need to be asked in the light of recent controversy over the wisdom of charging young, uncommitted people with the care of children. Who is to select these young people? Who will train them and for how long? Who will supervise them? At what age are children to be put into their charge?

Children who already have no fathers will effectively also have their *mothers removed from them by these* quick-fix proposals — proposals which coincide with increasing evidence that parental supervision is the most important factor in preventing crime in later life and in promoting educational achievement.

*The changes which they are de*signed to bring about must come from giving the necessary support to marriage and the family, not from hounding single mothers out to work, thereby virtually orphaning their children.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE RICHES, Director,
Family Education Trust,
322 Woodstock Road, Oxford.
November 26.

From Mrs Elisabeth Hoodless

Sir, The concerns of young people raised in research by the Industrial Society (News in brief, November 25) emphasises the need for a nationwide "Citizens' Service" for all young people in the UK.

If every young person were to be offered the opportunity to invest 1,000 hours or up to a year to the benefit of their local community — helping to raise literacy levels in schools, caring for people with disabilities, providing friendship and company for those in hospital — they would have the opportunity to enjoy the out-of-school learning opportunities which they clearly demand.

Citizens' Service would offer young people the chance to develop skills which would prepare them for "the real world". It would instil the sense of community which is lacking in the lives of young people, and which leads to the exclusion and disenfranchisement they feel so strongly.

Yours sincerely,
ELISABETH HOODLESS
(Executive Director),
CSV (Community Service Volunteers),
237 Pentonville Road, N1.
November 25.

From Dr Fiona Cornish

Sir, When is this Government going to make childcare a tax-deductible expense?

I am a GP with four children, a husband on an academic salary, and a nanny. I pay about one third of my post-tax pay on my nanny, who does an excellent job. Her salary is subject to tax and NI, some of which I pay; so the Inland Revenue has done very nicely so far.

Why don't I stay at home and look after my children? Because I enjoy my job. I have been trained as a doctor at vast expense to the taxpayer, and we could not possibly bring up our family on a single academic salary.

After-school clubs are great news. Could all childcare be made tax-deductible, please?

Yours faithfully,
FIONA CORNISH,
151 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.
November 26.

From Professor Emeritus C. W. McCombie

Sir, It is sad that the compassion which prompted protest at the proposed cut in benefits for single parents is showing signs of being set to rest by the promised Welfare to Work scheme.

This scheme may well bring about an average improvement in the lot of single parents. But that average improvement will bring little comfort to single parents with no realistic prospect of doing anything other than struggle on with considerably reduced income.

Compassion is for individuals, not for averages.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. McCOMBIE,
Flat 4, Talbot House,
55 Castle Street, Reading, Berkshire.
November 26.

From Mr T. H. Hughes-Davies

Sir, We have advanced since the Victorians: women who once earned a precarious living by taking in one another's washing now take in one another's children.

Yours sincerely,
T. H. HUGHES-DAVIES,
Slades Cottage, Breamore,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.
November 26.

A true disorder

From the Chief Executive of the National Autistic Society

Sir, Contrary to your report "Americans' mental problems 'mainly in the minds of their psychiatrists'" (November 27), what it calls Asperger's disorder isn't a "bombastic label for shyness", nor is it a mental illness. It is a form of autism, a disability which affects the way a person communicates.

Far from being one of the disorders made up by psychiatrists as the authors of a new guide suggest, it is a clearly defined condition, with a considerable body of research, affecting more than 200,000 people in the UK. As with autism, the causes of Asperger syndrome are still being investigated, but it results from a variety of conditions which affect brain development. There is no cure.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CANN,
Chief Executive,
The National Autistic Society,
393 City Road, EC1.
November 27.

Proceed with care

From Miss Gene McDowell

Sir, Instructions once noted on a jam-pot label: "Pierce lid with a pin, then push off" (letters, November 11, 13, 18, 24, 26, 29).

Yours faithfully,
GENE McDOWELL,
Lynton Cottage, Eastington,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.
November 28.

Long road home

From the Reverend David H. van Daalen

Sir, The stories about far-travelling letters and postcodes (November 20, 25, 28) are quite entertaining. I never know which is more amazing, the ingenuity displayed by some correspondents in concocting idiotic addresses, or the ability of the Post Office to deliver their letters.

I have received mail with garbled addresses, the letters PE of the postcode being the only indication to where I live. I recently received one that contained no hint where I might be staying. It took the Post Office only four days to find me.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. van DAALEN,
Shalom,
10 Sandwich Road, St Neots,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

From Mrs A. G. Lynne

Sir, Mr William Fisher (letter, November 25) in suggesting the use only of house number and postcode, would deprive us of one of the last written idiosyncracies of our heritage.

In the face of ever-lengthening numbers and Morse code e-mail references, the poetry of Ditchingford-in-the-Marsh, Lower Codswallop and the neat prepositions of "by" and "near" portray everything of our delightful English countryside.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. LYNNE,
Dedham House,
Dedham, nr Colchester, Essex.
November 26.

Winston's Austin 10

From Mr Andrew G. Simpson

Sir, Your Motoring Editor's description of Winston Churchill's Austin 10's performance (report, November 22) was slightly unjust. The engine in fact developed 32 brake horse power and the road tests of the day gave a top speed of over 60mph.

I fear, however, that then, as now, a political leader's decisions on motoring matters, whether appropriate personal transport or Formula One grand prix racing, may not relate solely to technical considerations.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW G. SIMPSON,
Blacklaws, Nr Longridge,
Bathgate, West Lothian.
November 22.

All pally at the Palace

From Mr Philip Ray

Sir, The new cosiness between Downing Street and Buckingham Palace appears to have spread to your Court Circular.

When our new Prime Minister took office in May, the Circular referred to him as "The Rt Hon Anthony Blair". However, I notice in today's edition that this has now changed to the more informal "Tony". I wonder who took this momentous decision?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP RAY,
6 Cleve Terrace,
Lewes, East Sussex.
philip.ray@btinternet.com
November 27.

هكذا من الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 29: The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence, RN, today carried out the following engagements in Bogotá, Colombia.

Her Royal Highness this morning visited Colsubsidio Children's Hospital.

The Princess Royal later visited La Casa Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited Ben Posta Home for Street Children.

The Princess Royal was entertained to Luncheon by The President of the Republic of Colombia at the Presidential Palace.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Institute of Immunology, San Juan de Dios Hospital.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, later visited Eco Park.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the National Police Hospital.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception give by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia (His Excellency Sir Leycester Coltman) at the residence.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 29: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Guide Association, today visited York and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt).

Her Royal Highness attended a Luncheon given by the North East England Guide Association at their headquarters, 106 Heworth Green.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon attended the Association's Advent Service in York Minster.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 30: The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence, RN, today carried out the following engagements in Cali, Columbia.

Her Royal Highness this morning visited the Caminos Drug Rehabilitation Project.

The Princess Royal later visited Colombo-Britanico College.

Her Royal Highness attended luncheon given by the Mayor of Cali at the Cali Country Club.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the Hospital Infantil Club Noel and opened the new operating theatre.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Jersey Wildlife Prervation Trust, afterwards visited Cali Zoo and opened the new aquarium.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Dinner given by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia (His Excellency Sir Leycester Coltman) at the Embassy, Bogotá.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 30: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Scottish Opera, this evening attended a Concert at the Palace of Holyroodhouse and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Birthdays today

Mr John Aldridge, orthopaedic surgeon, 55; Mr Woody Allen, actor and director, 62; Professor Sir Norman Browse, former Professor of Surgery, St Thomas' Hospital Medical School, 66; Mr Anthony Coe, Chief Constable, Suffolk, 56; Mr Gordon Crosse, composer, 60; Mr Mike Denness, cricketer, 57; Mr Stephen Edell, former Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman, 65; Miss Eva Evdokimova, prima ballerina, 49; Lord Glenconner, 71; Dame Alicia Markova, prima ballerina, 87; Mr Keith Michell, actor, 69; Miss Bette Midler, singer and actress, 52; Mr Stephen Poliakoff, playwright, 45; Mr Richard Pryor, actor, 57; Major-General Sir Desmond Rice, 73; Dame Mildred Riddelsdell, civil servant, 84; Mr Andy Ripley, rugby player, 50; Lord Roll of Ipsden, 90; the Right Rev Peter Selby, Bishop of Worcester, 56; Mr Lee Trevino, golfer, 58; Baroness Willoughby de Eresby, 63.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Royal Variety Performance, Victoria Palace Theatre, London SW1, at 7.

Princess Margaret, as Patron, Youth Clubs Scotland, will attend the finals of the BP/Youth Clubs Scotland Grizzly Challenge and Gruff Kids Projects at Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, at 2.

Memorial service

38 Group RAF
A service in memory of the Air Crew of 38 Group RAF, including RAF pilots who were seconded to the Glider Pilot Regiment and died on March 24, 1945, Operation Varsity — the Rhine Crossing, was held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand. The Rev David MacKenzie officiated. Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans read the lesson.

MARTIN BEDDALL

The Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, ascends on a crane platform for the dedication on Saturday of a new statue of St Luke, patron saint of Epsom College in Surrey. The original had become badly worn

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Air Force
GROUP CAPTAIN: L J Burrell to MoD, 2.12.97; A Campbell to RAF Odiham, 5.12.97.

Retirements
AIR COMMODORE: M C Rudd, 3.12.97.
GROUP CAPTAIN: T R Jones, 3.11.97; M J Steer, 2.12.97; D G Hawkins, 3.12.97; S J Morris, 3.12.97.

Legal appointments

Mr Justice Potts to be Chairman of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, the appointment to take effect when the Special Immigration Appeals Commission Bill is granted the Royal Assent.

Judge Reginald Lockett to be Senior Circuit Judge at Preston Combined Court Centre.

Malcolm Swift, QC, to be leader of the North Eastern Circuit from January 1 in succession to Stephen Williamson, QC.

Service reunion

RAF Tempsford Association
The 50th and final annual Tempsford reunion (138 and 161 Squadrons) was held on Saturday at the Stewart Memorial Hall, Tempsford, Bedfordshire. Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges presided.

University news

Stirling
Mr Giles Dove to be Stirling University's first Director of Public Relations, from January 1, 1998.

Service dinners

Frinton Society
Captain John Harvey-Samuel, RN, presided at the annual dinner of the Frinton Society of former Russian interpreters held on Saturday at *HMS Collingwood*.

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (V)
The Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) on Saturday at the Council House. Lieutenant-Colonel R.M. Thurston, Royal Signals, presided. Brigadier I.A. Sim, Honorary Colonel, also spoke.

Airborne TA
Airborne TA officers held a dinner night at Aldershot on Saturday. Lieutenant-Colonel E.I. Kohn, REME, presided.

Dinners

The Old Latymerian Association
The Annual OLA Dinner was held at Latymer Upper School, W6, on Friday, November 28, with Nigel Orton, JP, in the Chair. Principal guests included the Headmaster, Mr C. Diggory, and Mr Keith Vaz, MP, who proposed the toast to the School and the Association.

Tonbridge School Centenary Rackets
A dinner was held at Tonbridge School on Saturday, to celebrate the centenary of the Dale Memorial Rackets Court. The President of the Old Tonbridgian Squash and Rackets Club, Mr R.M.K. Gracey, was in the chair. Mr J.R. Thompson, Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge and Mr R.J. Crosby also spoke.

Piping centre chief wins top award

By Angus Nicol

THE Glenfiddich Championship, the 24th since it was established by William Grant & Son Ltd in 1974, has taken place in the Great Hall of Blair Castle, at Blair Atholl. The Fear an tighe was Dr John Smith.

Ten pipers competed for the substantial prizes, each having to play both *ceòl mór* and *ceòl beag*. The pipers are given their tunes the evening before the event. This year, by coincidence, three of those competing had the same tunes as they had played in the London competitions a week earlier.

The first prize for *ceòl mór*, which includes the Highland Society of London's Trophy, was won by Roderick MacLeod, director of piping at the new Piping Centre in Glasgow, and winner of the Glenfiddich Championship in 1992. He played *The Lament for the Viscount of Dundee*, as he had in London. Last year's winner, Alasdair Gillies, came second, playing *The Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay*. In third place, Mike Cusack, from Texas, played *The Lament for the Children*, with which he won the Bratach Gorm in London. Fourth was Angus MacColl, with *The Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon*. William MacCallum took fifth place with *Rory MacLoude's Lament*.

The other tunes heard, still excellent even if they won no prize, included *The Lament for the Earl of Antrim*, played by Pipe-Sergeant Gordon Walker, James Murray played *I got a kiss of the King's Hand*, Robert Wallace *The Park Piobaireachd* (No 2), and Dr Angus MacDonald *The Lament for MacSwan of Roaig*, with which he has won the gold at Oban.

Several present rather hoped that Duncan MacGillivray would be given *The Menzies' Salute*, with which he won the gold medal at Inverness this year, since it is a fine tune which is rarely heard. However, he played *Ronald MacDonald of Morar's Lament*.

The winner of the *ceòl baeg* part of the championship, and the PML Redfearn Trophy, was Angus MacColl. He played, appropriately, *Mrs John MacColl* (who was his great-great-aunt), *John Roy Stewart* and *The Rejected Suitor*. William MacCallum took second prize. Third was Roderick MacLeod, fourth Pipe-Sergeant Gordon Walker, and Alasdair Gillies took fifth in spite of a note error in his reel.

The overall winner of the championship, awarded to the competitor who does best in both sections, with *ceòl mór* taking precedence in the case of equality, was Roderick MacLeod. Second overall was Angus MacColl, and third Alasdair Gillies.

The Balvenie Medal, awarded to a person whose services to piping have been outstanding, went this year to Donald MacPherson.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.A. Greenwood and Miss L.C. Whitburn
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mrs Gail Timmis and stepson of Mr John Timmis, of Wistaston, Cheshire, and Lucy, only daughter of His Honour Judge Guy Whitburn, QC, and Mrs Whitburn, of Cotherstone, Co Durham.

Mr O.V.H. Howell and Miss H.A.H. Lefever
The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Howell, of Partridge Green, West Sussex, and Helen, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Paul Lefever, of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

Mr B.R. Kent and Miss V.K. Goodfellow
The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Kent, of Greenwich, and Venetia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Goodfellow, of Putney.

Mr G.D. Murray Smith and Miss R. Lloyd-Williams
The engagement is announced between George, son of the late Mr and Mrs William Fyfe Murray Smith, of Auchterarder, Perthshire, and Rosalind, only daughter of Dr and Mrs David Lloyd-Williams, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr J.W.R. Perceval-Maxwell and Miss L.C. Manners Price
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Gavin Perceval-Maxwell, of Godalming, Surrey, and Loveday, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Manners Price, of South Wirral, Cheshire.

Mr R.H. Soames and Mrs J. Hailes
The engagement is announced between Robin Soames, TD, DL, and Minker, widow of Lieutenant Colonel Jack Hailes, DSO. The marriage has been arranged to take place in London, quietly, on Wednesday, January 7.

Marriages

Mr G.H. Ardern and Miss C.V. Penney
The marriage took place on Saturday at Christ Church, Chelsea, of Mr Gareth Ardern, younger son of Mr and Mrs Derek Ardern, of Itteringham, Norfolk, to Miss Claire Penney, elder daughter of the Hon Martin and Mrs Penney, of Dulwich, London. The Rev Christopher Kevill-Davies officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alice Farmilee, Camilla Pughe, Rosie Coleman and Hugo Coleman. Mr Patrick de Soissons was best man.

A reception was held at Skinners' Hall and the honeymoon will be spent in Madeira and Italy.

Mr E.C.B. Mocatta and Mrs D.B.C. Midgen
The marriage took place yesterday in London between Mr Edward Mocatta and Mrs Diana Midgen.

Mr N.S.C. Rice and Countess Ulla Mörner
The marriage took place on November 29, 1997, in Sweden, between Noel Rice and Ulla Mörner.

Lieutenant Commander T.J.L. Williamson, RN, and Miss P. Lyon
The marriage took place on Friday, in The Queens Chapel, St James's Palace, London, between Lieutenant Commander Toby Williamson, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Williamson, of Canterbury, Kent, and Miss Polly Lyon, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Lyon, of Tetbury, Gloucestershire, and Denbigh, Denbighshire. The Rev Willie Booth officiated.

A reception was held at St James's Palace.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Alexandra, Queen Consort of King Edward VII, Copenhagen, 1844.
DEATHS: St Edmund Campion, Jesuit martyr, executed, 1581.

Nature notes

THE countryside is full of fieldfares, boldly marked chestnut and grey thrushes that have come here for the winter from the far North. They fly high, in flocks of up to 80 or 100, then swoop down on a hedge laden with hawthorn berries, making loud chuckling calls.

Pied wagtails feed round the hooves of horses, picking up insects that have been disturbed in the grass. They often feed in pairs: the male can be distinguished by his black back, whereas the female's back is greyer. Some blackbirds are singing very quietly in the middle of hedges, a thin, rambling song with only traces of the rich summer song in it. These winter performances, which take place only in mild weather, are thought to be practice sessions.

Young birch trees still have a crown of yellow leaves. The lightest wind sends the last dry oak leaves down in showers. Some

The fieldfare

dandelion flowers in sheltered places may survive the winter, and here and there autumnal hawkbit, which is a small, wiry dandelion, can still be found in bloom. The small white flowers of chickweed continue to open. On muddy roadside verges, next year's fern-like cow parsley leaves and aromatic ground ivy leaves are already growing sturdy. DJM

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Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. Isaiah 2 : 3.

BIRTHS

COOPER - On November 20th to Fiona (Hayes) and David a gorgeous daughter Amy Elizabeth Millicent.

IRWIN - On 15th November, in Hong Kong, to Fiona (née Barbour) and Simon, a daughter, Alexandra Sophie Grace, a sister for Natasha.

MORGAN - On 23rd November, to Alice (née Reid) and Daniel, a son, Arthur Martin Richard, a brother for Frederick.

WRIGHT - On 18th November 1997, to Andrea (née Lloyd) and John, a daughter, Madeleine Elizabeth.

PLATINUM ANNIVERSARIES

de COURCY-IRELAND:JONES - On December 1st 1927, at St Mary's Alverstoke, Lieutenant S.B. de Courcy-Ireland R.N. youngest son of The Revd and Mrs E.S. de Courcy-Ireland to Ruth only daughter of the late Captain Harry Jones R.N. and Mrs Harry Jones. Present address: Little Garth, Tibbiwell, Painswick, Glos. GL6 6YA.

DEATHS

ATKINSON - John Storey (Major rt'd) died peacefully on November 27th 1997, aged 84. Beloved husband of Anne, and much loved father of Susan, Jane and Richard, and grandfather of Emma, Virginia and Jody. Funeral at St James Church, Birdham at 11am, Thursday 4th December. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, to The Terrys Cross Trust, Brighton Rd, Henfield, Sussex BN5 9SX, or c/o Edward White, 5 South Pallant, Chichester PO19 1SY, (01243 782136).

DANIELL - (Major rtd) Roger aged 72 beloved husband of Margaret, much loved father of Robin, Hugh and Felicity, grandfather of Hugh, Christopher and Zoe. Peacefully on 27th November. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Redlynch, Wilts at 3.00pm Wednesday 3rd December followed by private cremation. No flowers please. Donations to: NSPCC and Doctor Barnados.

HAY - Barbara Rochfort, 28th November 1997, peacefully at home. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service 2.30pm Thursday 4th December at St Mary and St Melor Parish Church, Amesbury. No flowers. Donations to The Amesbury Bell Restoration Fund. Enquiries to Gerald W. Burden (01980) 623262.

HODGSON - Tom, formerly a Director of London Clubs International and of the Metropolitan police, beloved father of Anne, Paul and Marie and dear husband of Pat, died 25th November 1997, in St Joseph's Hospice, Mare Street, Hackney. The family requests that donations be made to the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund - no flowers. There will be a private family funeral on Tuesday. A Memorial service will be arranged.

LAITHWAITE - Eric Roberts suddenly on November 27th. A loving husband to Sheila and a wonderful father to Martin, Helen, Louise and Den, grandfather to Peter, Jonathan and Emma. Professor Emeritus of Imperial College London and visiting Professor of Sussex University. Funeral at Chichester Crematorium, West Sussex at 4 pm Wednesday 3rd December. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Home Farm Trust c/o Mrs Grace Owston, 17 The Byways, Surbiton KT6 9HT.

MARTINEZ - Dr. Joan (née Watts) on 27th November in Spain following a short illness. Funeral 1st December. No flowers. Donations to Age Concern.

MAY - Ivan, peacefully on the 27th November, beloved husband of Betty. Family funeral service at Guilsborough Church on Thursday 4th December at 2:30pm. No flowers please.

POTTER - William Edward (Teddy) died peacefully at home on 26th November, the eve of his 80th birthday, after a long illness. Schoolmaster at Bryanston for over 50 years. Greatly loved husband and friend of Joan for 56 years. Dear father of David, Roger, Jonathan and Susan. Much beloved by his 11 grandchildren who gave him so much happiness. Service at St Nicholas's Church, Durweston on Thursday 4th December at 2.30 pm. No flowers but donations if wished to the Friends of Blandford Hospital c/o Colin J. Close (01258) 453133. There will be a Memorial Service in the spring.

SELIGMAN - On Thursday, 27th November, 1997, Meryl Adelaide, widow of her beloved Geoffrey, dear mother of Jill, Charles and David, adoring grandmother, twin sister to Gwynneth and sister to Claire. Funeral at 11am on Tuesday, 2nd December 1997 at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11. No flowers by request.

SHERLOCK - Margaret Maude (née Bray) M.B.E. peacefully on 28th November 1997. Widow of Niall Patrick Sherlock and mother of Charles and John, grandmother to James, Belinda, Patrick and Francis. Today you will be with me in paradise'. Funeral and private cremation on Tuesday 2nd December. No flowers - donations to the Save the Children Fund c/o Pimm's Funeral Services, Dorset House, High Street, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8RL. Service of Thanksgiving at the Parish Church of St. Peter & St Paul, Ewhurst, Surrey on Saturday 31st January 1998, 2.30pm.

STANLEY - Major Harry Stanley, died peacefully at home at Craigdarroch, Moniaive, Dumfriesshire on Thursday 27th November. Beloved husband of Grisel and greatly loved and respected by all his family and many friends around the world. Service private in the Craigdarroch Chapel at 11.30am Wednesday 3rd December. Family burial at Sweetheart Abbey, Dumfriesshire. Family flowers only, donations to Grenadier Guards Welfare Fund, Wellington Barracks, London, SW1E 6HQ. Funeral Directors John Pagan & Sons, Dumfries.

WILLIAMS - John of Canterbury died peacefully at home on 28th November. Funeral Thursday 4th December at noon at St. Dunstan's Church. Garden flowers only. Donations to Pilgrims Hospices, 56 London Road, Canterbury.

YOUNG - Patricia Helena (Pat) at St Wilfrid's Hospice, Eastbourne, on November 22nd aged 75. A medical journalist, author, former editor of Nursing Mirror. She who did so much to inform and help sufferers from cancer fell victim to it herself. Our much loved friend and loving companion is deeply missed. Funeral at Eastbourne Crematorium at 12 noon Friday December 5th. Flowers or if preferred donations in her memory to St Wilfrid's Hospice c/o Seaford & Newhaven Funeral Service, 22 Sutton Road, Seaford, BN25 1RU, tel: (01323) 893889.

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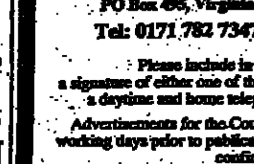
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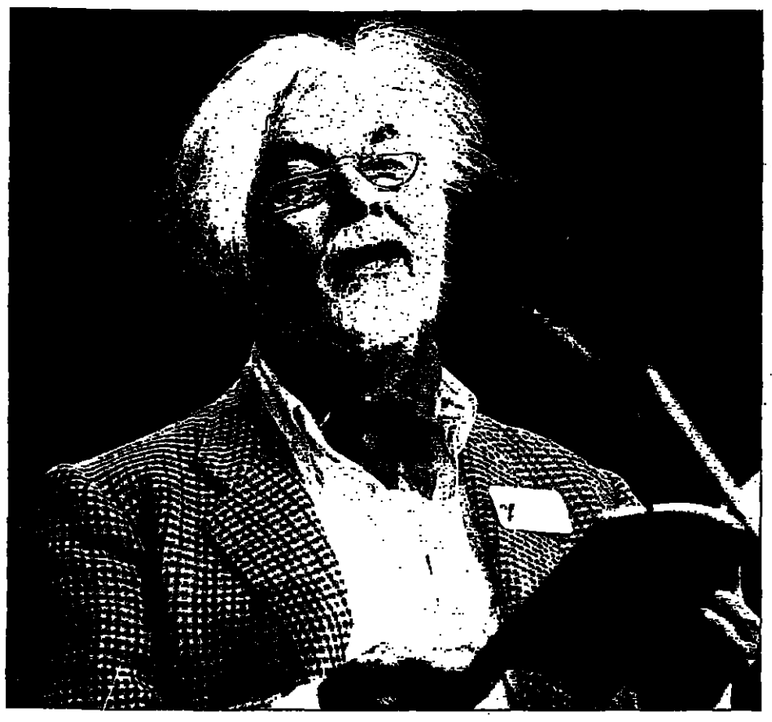
OBITUARIES

JON SILKIN

Jon Silkin, poet, critic and editor, died in Newcastle upon Tyne on November 25 aged 66. He was born in London on December 2, 1930.



Jon Silkin was a distinctive poet and a dedicated and selfless literary professional. For more than forty years he edited the little magazine *Stand*, which he founded in 1952 and turned into an innovative, influential and remarkably durable presence on the contemporary poetry scene. In the magazine's pages, in his teaching, in his own substantial body of verse, and in his anthologies and critical editions of other poets (both contemporary and, notably, of the First World War), Silkin upheld a passionate, complex belief in the social importance of poetry.

An only child, Jon Silkin came from a Jewish family which had produced a number of noted lawyers and politicians. His sense of Jewishness, he liked to emphasise, gave him a rather special access to his mother tongue. Writing of the poet Isaac Rosenberg, who was killed in the trenches, he speaks of a plastic and somehow sculptural use of language; elsewhere he describes thought as being in some important sense a *physical* activity. His own poetry demonstrates an intense linguistic energy.

In 1939 he moved from London to Swansea, where his maternal grandparents lived. As a child and adolescent during the war, he remained largely unaware of the full extent of Nazi atrocities, but he experienced his share of anti-Semitism, as well as of kindness.

His Jewishness, and his "foreignness" in Wales, may have reinforced his sense of being an outsider, something on which he would later draw repeatedly in order to criticise social injustice and the direr inhumanities of world war, the Holocaust and man's mistreatment of his fellow creatures.

He was always scrupulous in accounting for these distant but significant and forming experiences. The basic problem for him was how to live respected by his peers while also retaining self-respect. Questions of proper action, social responsibility and authentic selfhood run through his life and work.

After his return to London from Wales, his schooling was crowned by expulsion from Dulwich College. At some point he had been excused the school's chapel services and regular scripture lessons and had gone off conscientiously to read the Old Testament instead. This was to help to shape his poetic style when, having realised that he was not going to make it as a composer — he could not read music, for a start — he stumbled towards being a poet.

The decade after the war was difficult for him. He taught English to foreign students and worked as a labourer, among many short-term jobs in London, partly with an idea that a middle-class writer needed to have a broader experience of life. National Service took him into the Army in 1948 and he became a sergeant in the Education Corps.

Returning to civilian life armed only with the School Certificate, he was soon moving from one bedsit to another. But in the early Fifties he began writing in earnest and made literary friendships, for example with Emanuel Litvinoff, Bernard Bergonzi and Alan Brownjohn.

Cynthia, the woman with whom he was then living, gave birth to Adam, the subject of his first major and still perhaps best-known poem, *Death of A Son*. He had arrived in the hospital room with Cynthia at the moment when their one-year-old died, and the last line immediately came into his mind:

And out of his eyes two great tears rolled, like stones, and he died.

The poem was included in *The Peaceable Kingdom* (1954) and was well-timed to find recognition for a new and individual voice, coming as it did before the influential "Movement" anthology, *New Lines* (1956), and the flurry of acclaim for Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath. Silkin's first collection displayed a striking vision and ambition; it sought, in effect, to heal the shattering turmoils of the war.

From growing mercy and a moderate love
Great love for the human animal occurs.
And your love grows. Your great love grows and grows.

Silkin consolidated his reputation with another volume, *The Two Freedoms*, in 1958 ("Among the youngest generation of poets no one shows higher promise," wrote *The Times* reviewer), and ended the decade with a move north, to a Gregory Poetry Fellowship at Leeds University. He stayed on there to take a degree in English in 1962, and to do postgraduate work on the poets of the First World War.

Those studies provided the foundation for a number of important books and critical anthologies, such as *Out of Battle*, *The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry*, *The Penguin Book of First World War Prose*, and an edition of Wilfred Owen's Collected Poems. Silkin felt that full understanding of the literature of the First World War was hampered by an undue emphasis on its lyrical romantic melancholy; his own approach, eloquently argued in his introductory essays and reflected in his selection of writers and texts, valued passion, consistency and commitment.

A mature student is often a good adult educator, and Silkin's long and effective career as a freelance teacher in higher education began in Leeds. There was something particularly full about the attention he gave both to the text and to his pupils, a wholehearted, earnest courtesy which valued his interlocutor in a very special way as a fellow "creature" (a word much used in his writing, together with such variants as "creaturely").

The early Sixties were also a heady period for literary and political life in Leeds, and Silkin became a forceful figure in a milieu that included Geoffrey Hill and Peter Redgrove. He was the first to publish Tony Harrison.

Silkin then moved to Newcastle upon Tyne, where he was to spend the rest of his life. Refusing to be diverted by fashion, he continued to develop his distinctive voice — grave, rugged, measured, sometimes heavy with the weight of difficult themes. His subjects — man and nature, suffering and isolation, inhumanity and pain — remained constant, but a northeastern setting lent them new vigour in some of his best poems, such as the *Killhope Wheel* sequence of 1974, centred on a Durham mining community.

The mid-1960s saw the birth of a number of regional arts associations, and in 1965 Silkin managed to persuade the North Eastern Arts Association (now Northern Arts) to give support to *Stand*, which had been founded more than a decade before. The magazine thenceforth adopted its familiar landscape format and expanded its international sweep, often printing work which Silkin had come across on his frequent foreign poetry-reading tours.

A magazine, even one run, like *Stand*, with a whole series of skivvying assistants (many of whom went on to make substantial reputations and some of whom have suggested starting a *Stand* Veterans' Society), is a continuing burden, with hundreds of submissions to be sifted for each issue. A natural editor, Silkin was always on the look-out for new talent rather than the safety of big names. Once chosen, the work would be rigorously discussed with the author. Silkin's objections were often surprising, but a grain in them forced the author to make improvements. Above all, he communicated his sense that writing was among the most serious things a person could do.

He was also a surprisingly sharp businessman in many ways. He was the nonpareil of magazine sellers, which is how he managed to keep a poetry magazine going for so long in a country where buying poetry was — and remains for most people — simply unthinkable.

His physical presence helped. Short, genial, fierce, solicitous, black-haired and bearded at first, then white-haired and black-bearded until both turned silver, he looked like a poet, or a not-too-alarming prophet. No further accoutrements were needed, and he remained faithful to the sports jacket with leather elbows, just as his taste in food remained essentially postwar British. He liked arguing, partly for the sake of it, and partly to continue the debate with himself started so long ago in the war. A volume of his *Selected Poems* was published in 1994.

His marriage to Lorna Tracy, a co-editor of *Stand*, was dissolved in 1995. He is survived by three sons and a daughter.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL WILFRID OULTON

Air Vice-Marshal Wilfrid Oulton, CB, CBE, DSO, DFC, died on October 31 aged 86. He was born on July 27, 1911.

AS THE task force commander of Operation Grapple, Wilf Oulton organised Britain's hydrogen bomb tests at Christmas Island 40 years ago. With pressure mounting for a treaty banning atmospheric testing, he was ordered to plan the programme without delay. Working closely with the nuclear scientist Sir William (later Lord) Penney, he completed the preparations within nine months. The tests have since been surrounded by controversy because of claims by a number of the 4,000 men involved that their health has suffered as a result of their exposure to radiation.

Oulton, who published his own account of the enterprise in *Christmas Island Cracker* (1987), always stood aside from the debate. He privately took the view that the authorities could hardly be blamed for knowing so much less about the risks at the time than they do today. But he always expressed his concern for the men's welfare. Several years ago, he accepted an invitation from the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association to unveil a plaque in Portsmouth Cathedral's rose garden in memory of those who had died — but only on condition that he was kept out of all publicity.

His South Pacific assignment enabled Oulton to display the full range of his technical knowledge, as well as his great energy as an organiser. But it came towards the end of a career built largely around maritime air operations and his deep interest in navigation.

He won both his DFC and his DSO in 1943 while commanding 58 Squadron, when he scored a hat-trick of successes against German U-boats in the Bay of Biscay. Piloting a Halifax bomber in May that year, he sank two of them with depth charges in little more than a week, and shortly afterwards immobilised a third — which was finished off by a follow-up aircraft.

Wilfrid Ewart Oulton was born at Monks Copenhall, Cheshire, the son of a science master whose family had lived there for two centuries. His father had worked under the nuclear scientist Rutherford as a young man, and later moved to Abertillery in South Wales, where he became a headmaster, and where Wilfrid went to school.

At 16, Oulton won a scholarship to read engineering at the University College of Wales, Cardiff, but then moved to the RAF College, Cranwell, com-

ing top of the entry for that year. Commissioned in 1931, he served first with a flying boat squadron in Malta before going on a course at the School of Navigation, Manston. He showed such aptitude that he was converted from being a student into a member of the instructing staff. He also went to the RAF staff college in 1936, producing a forward-looking paper there on rocket warfare.

At the start of the war, Oulton was serving with a flying-boat squadron at Pembroke Dock, carrying out maritime patrols over Britain's Western Approaches. There followed a posting to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, where he was in charge of research on navigational equipment.

He left for Washington in 1941 to help to establish a training scheme for British air crews, before becoming a member of the combined services liaison team after Pearl Harbor. After returning to command 58 Squadron, he was detailed to set up an RAF base on the Azores, then went to take charge of the flying-boat station at RAF Castle Archdale in Northern Ireland.

At the end of the war, during which he was mentioned in dispatches three times, Oulton was Deputy Director Flying Control, with responsibility for setting up air traffic control systems in postwar Britain, including those at the new airport at Heathrow. Between 1946 and 1948 he was director of the Joint Anti-Submarine School at Londonderry, where one of his students was the young Duke of Edinburgh, shortly after his marriage to the Queen.

Oulton thereafter continued his steady rise upwards through the RAF, serving between 1950 and 1943 as air attaché in Argentina, from where he also covered Uruguay and Paraguay. He was appointed CBE on his return and CB in 1958, following his tour on Christmas Island. He retired in 1960 after a final posting as senior air staff officer with Coastal Command.

In retirement, he joined EMI Electronics as director of defence projects, and at one stage set up a joint venture on satellite communications with Hughes Aircraft of California. In 1982, he also started his own business consultancy, Medsales Executive. He continued to travel extensively, organising business conferences around the world. Two years ago he published a book, *Technocrat*, about the American scientist Dr Allen Crocker, whom he met through his work on the Christmas Island tests, and who became a close friend.

Oulton, who became a Fellow of the University of Wales, was a supremely fit man. After being RAF squash champion in his younger days, he was still playing in his eighties — and beating men half his age.

He married his first wife, Sarah ("Terry") in 1935. She died in 1990, and the following year he married his second wife, Leticia, an Argentine painter whom he had met in Buenos Aires, and who had become a friend of the family. She survives him, together with three sons from his first marriage.

ELIZABETH FITZGERALD

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Principal of the City and Guilds of London Art School 1967-73, died on November 9 aged 77. She was born on October 26, 1920.

WHEN the Royal Academy Schools, where Elizabeth Fitzgerald was studying painting, was evacuated to Wales during the war, she characteristically chose to remain behind and do her bit in an engineering factory. When the war was over, she resumed her studies, but because the Academy had no printmaking facilities at the time, she additionally took printmaking and life drawing classes at the City and Guilds of London Art School in Kensington at weekends.

In 1948 she was awarded the Leverhulme Travelling Scholarship, and after a brief spell of teaching at St Maurs Convent in Weybridge, she joined the staff of the City and Guilds of London Art School. Her association with the school was to last for 48 years.

Elizabeth Amelie Fitzgerald had spent her childhood in London, and attended St Andrew's Convent and then the Sacred Heart Convent. Her godmother was the Dowager, Queen Amelie of Portugal, and her godfather the exiled King Manuel II of Portugal; the Portuguese Royal Family were then living near by at Fullwell Park in Twickenham. Her mother was French, and the children grew up bilingual. They regularly spent

long holidays in France, visiting the Normandy coast.

At the City and Guilds, Fitzgerald rose from being Registrar in the 1950s to become Principal of the school in 1967. During her time there she breathed life into an establishment that could easily have died. She always stood her ground with great fortitude, sometimes alone, and over the years she built up a loyal and happy band of students and tutors — all of whom were practising artists. Like her, many students returned to teach once they had launched their careers, and so a particular ethos was maintained.

In 1971 the City and Guilds Institute withdrew its financial support. The newly independent school was able to continue — and to maintain its style of teaching — only because of the support of the livery companies, in particular the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers and Drapers.

In 1972 Roger de Grey was approached, and agreed to become the new Principal, and the following year Fitzgerald stepped down. Fitzgerald and de Grey both wished to return to the school's original *raison d'être*: to provide training in carving, modelling and architectural decoration for those engaged in the local artistic industries.

Diploma craft and conservation courses, some of them unique, such as woodcarving and gilding and stonecarving, were begun, reinforcing the strong painting and sculpture departments. When de Grey was appointed President of the Royal Academy in 1984, he was able to continue as Principal of the school largely because Fitzgerald, as Vice-Principal, dealt with most of the practical business. The association was, of course, of great benefit to the school.

Sadly, the last years of Fitzgerald's life were marred by constant ill-health. Yet, despite this, she put aside her retirement plans, on the unexpected death of Roger de Grey in 1995, to become acting Principal until the appointment of the new incumbent, Michael Kenny, and went on supporting him through his first year in office.

In 1996 she moved to Salisbury to provide a home for her brother, Paul, and to be near her sister, Denise. She was not married.

LORD WILSON OF LANGSIDE

Lord Wilson of Langside, Lord Advocate 1967-70, died on November 23 aged 81. He was born on March 21, 1916.

AS SCOTLAND'S senior law officer in a Labour administration, Harry Wilson refused to profit from the power of personal patronage that traditionally goes with the post of Lord Advocate. He refused to appoint himself to the Bench and was not afraid to cross swords with the most powerful Scottish judges of his day.

When the Tories won the 1970 election, he paid the price. Judicial promotion was not forthcoming and he spent the rest of his career in lesser, though significant, posts. Politically he grew disenchanted with Labour and joined the SDP when it broke away in 1981, remaining with its rump until 1992. He ended his days as a crossbencher in the House of Lords.

Henry Stephen Wilson, the youngest son of a solicitor of farming stock who held strong socialist beliefs, was educated at Glasgow High School and Glasgow University. War broke out before he could complete his law degree, and in 1940 he joined the Army as a private. He was quickly commissioned in the Highland Light Infantry, served from 1940 to 1946 in the Royal Armoured Corps, and was wounded at Anzio during the Italian campaign.

In 1946, having completed his legal studies, he was called to the Scottish Bar and practised, but the pull of his politics remained strong. The socialism inherited from his father had been strengthened by the experience of growing up during the Depression.

He stood for Parliament twice in Dumfriesshire and once in Edinburgh West between 1950 and 1955, but those were the days of Tory dominance in Scotland and he began to think politics was not for him. In 1955 he was appointed to the shrieval bench in Greenock, moving to Glasgow, where he served from 1956 to 1965.

Somewhat to his surprise, politics reclaimed him. Labour was by now in power. The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, appointed him Solicitor-General in 1965 and Lord Advocate two years later.

There was criticism that neither of the two Scottish law officers sat in Parliament, and in 1969 Harry Wilson found himself with a life peerage and a seat in the Lords.

Around this time he fell foul of the Scottish judiciary, then under the somewhat dictatorial stewardship of Lord President Clyde. The Tories, having dominated Scottish politics, were now in rapid decline and the SNP was beginning its rapid period of growth.

Edward Heath came to Perth in 1968 and committed his party to a Scottish assembly. He asked for judicial nominations to the committee he set up under the chairmanship of Sir Alec Douglas-Home. A leading judge, Lord Avonside, accepted membership.

At this point Labour was still opposed to the principle of devolution. Lord Advocate Wilson felt Lord Avonside had breached the convention whereby active judges did not become involved in party politics and indicated that the appointment was unacceptable. The furious public controversy which followed was ended by Lord Avonside's resignation from the committee, but in the process Wilson had made an enemy of Lord Clyde.

As Labour's 1970 defeat approached, Wilson declined the usual exit route; his refusal to appoint himself to the Bench drew from Dr Dickson Mabon, then Minister of State at the Scottish Office, the comment: "You must be mad!"

Any thoughts the incoming Lord Advocate, Norman (later Lord) Wylie, might have had of honouring tradition ran into determined resistance.

Wilson himself believed Clyde never forgave him. After a protracted negotiation, Wilson accepted an appointment as director of the Scottish courts administration, serving in this post until 1974. For the last two years of his legal career, until 1976, he presided, as Sheriff-Principal of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, over the busiest sheriff court in Europe.

As a judge, he was down-to-earth and courteous, though there was on occasion what a colleague called "a dash of pepper". He believed the shrieval bench to be an excellent training ground for the senior Bench, which traditionally drew its members from the Faculty of Advocates.

His experience of political office had disillusioned him. In particular, he was repelled by the manoeuvrings of Harold Wilson and his kitchen cabinet. He remained active, however, chairing the Scotland Says No campaign, the cross-party group which helped to secure an indecisive vote in the 1979 devolution referendum.

His wife died last year; there were no children.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev David Abington, Assistant Curate, Newport with Longford, Chetwynd, and Forton (Lichfield), to be Vicar, Adderley, Ash, Ightfield with Calverhall, Moreton Say (same diocese).

The Rev John Bailey, Diocesan Director of Education (Lincoln), to be also licensed general preacher (same diocese).

The Rev David Beverley, Industrial Chaplain, Scunthorpe (Lincoln), to be Priest-in-Charge, Scunthorpe Resurrection Berkeley (same diocese).

The Rev Timothy Buckley, Minister, Binley Woods LEP (Lincoln), to be Vicar, Belton in the Isle of Axholme (same diocese).

The Rev John Cleaver, Vicar, Teddington St Alban the Martyr (London), to be Kensington Area Chaplain for the Mothers' Union (same diocese).

The Rev Malcolm Cronk, Team Vicar Langley and Parkfield Team Ministry (Manchester), to be Rector, Manchester Apostles with Miles Platting (same diocese).

The Rev Jacques Desrosiers, NSM Curate, Benenden (Canterbury), to be NSM Curate, Maidstone All Saints (same diocese).

The Rev Jane Dicker, Curate, Littleham with Exmouth, and Chaplain, Exmouth Campus, Plymouth University (Exeter), to be Chaplain, Further and Higher Education, Grimsby (Lincoln).

The Rev Dr Paul Dunn, Team Vicar, Wimbledon St Matthew (Southwark), to be Vicar, Ham St Richard (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen Foster, NSM Curate, Aldbrough and Mappleton with Goxhill and Withernwick (York), to be Team Vicar, Howden Team Ministry (same diocese).

The Rev Jonathan Gibbs, Chaplain, Basle with Frieburgh-im-Breisgau (Switzerland), to be Rector, Heswall (Chester).

Canon Dr Francis Gordon-Kerr, Vicar, Anlaby (York), to be Vicar, Crowland (Lincoln).

The Rev James Hawkins, Vicar, Ancaster Wilsford Group (Lincoln), to be also Rural Dean of Loveden (same diocese).

Church of Scotland

Appointments

Ordination and induction

The Rev Sigfrid Marten, to Govanhill Trinity, Glasgow.

The Rev John Jackson, to Cleland.

The Rev Donald Campbell, to St George's, Dumfries.

Induction

The Rev James B MacLean, to Eddleston with Old, Peebles.

The Rev James Drysdale, to Blackbraes and Shieldhill.

Translations

The Rev John D Hegarty, from High Carntyne, Glasgow to St John's, Cupar.

The Rev John D Whiteford, from Dunnottar, Stonehaven to Newlands South, Glasgow.

Resignation

The Rev John V Gardner, from Presbytery of Lorn and Mull to Scots Church, Melbourne, Australia.

Retirements

The Rev Bruce J.L. Hay, from Makerstoun and Smailholm with Stichill, Hume and Nenthorn.

The Rev William Craig, from the Bruce Memorial, Cambusbarron.

The Rev Iain M Roy, from Livingstone, Stevenston.

The Rev Ian U Macdonald, from Tarbolton.

The Rev Fred C Muir, from Stepps.

The Rev Eric J Alexander, from St George's Tron, Glasgow.

The Rev Archibald F Chisholm, from Braes of Rannoch with Foss and Rannoch.

The Rev Robert Johnstone, from Aberluthnott with Laurencekirk.

The Rev J.E. Stewart Low, from Tarbat.

ON THIS DAY

December 1, 1909

The Lords defeat of Lloyd George's "People's Budget" — "for raising money to wage warfare against poverty" — led to a general election in 1910. The Liberals were re-elected and in 1911 enacted the Parliament Bill, which curbed the powers of the Lords.

The Decision of the Lords

The House of Lords has decided the great issue submitted to it, after a debate which ended as it began, upon a high level of oratorical excellence and of argumentative power. By a majority of 350 to 75 it has carried Lord Lansdowne's amendment declaring "that this House is not justified in giving its consent to this Bill until it has been submitted to the judgment of the country".

In taking this course the House of Lords is discharging its primary constitutional duty, a duty broader, deeper, and more vital to the prosperity of the nation than any compliance with superficial conventions or custom. A Second Chamber is by its essence the guardian in a peculiar sense of the great mass of things which the nation desires to conserve, just as the First Chamber is specially charged with the duty of carrying out changes required from year to year to meet changing circumstances.

When, according to the reasoned conviction of the Second Chamber, the proposed changes trench too deeply into what is permanent and organic, it becomes its duty to submit these changes to the judgment of the country. If the country decides against the proposed innovations the Second Chamber is fully justified. If the country accepts the novel proposals, the House of Lords does not call its decision in question. There may be in that case some impeachment of the judgment of the Second Chamber as erring on the side of caution, but not of faith to constitutional duty.

It is sometimes very difficult to decide whether given proposals are so serious a kind as to demand reference to the country. In the present case everything has been done to sway the House of Lords and the country by exaggerating the constitutional difficulties and practical inconveniences of submitting proposals to the country's judgment.

Arguments founded mainly and often exclusively upon the presumed consequences to the House itself have been urged with great force and ability in the debate. We have never underrated their importance, but that importance must be held to be exaggerated when men like Lord Rosebery, though convinced that the proposed changes are fundamentally bad, allow such considerations to deter them from offering the only effectual opposition.

There is now, however, an end of all questions of tactics, but the convictions of those who have so forcibly condemned the proposals of the Government must remain unchanged. Their course is therefore clear, and has been admirably stated by Lord Cromer. The field of battle may not be exactly what they would have preferred, but that makes no difference in the character of the contending hosts or of the issues which have to be decided.

Those who condemn the Government policy, whether upon the Budget or upon the attempt to efface the House of Lords altogether and to set up an omnipotent majority in the House of Commons, are bound to throw all their influence upon the side of the Unionist party in the coming election. Tariff reform may be unwelcome to many, as it is to Lord Cromer, but his dislike of it only adds force to his warning that it is immeasurably the smaller of two evils.

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS

Blair may delay cuts to end revolt

■ A cut in lone parents' benefits could be put off until next autumn as ministers seek to defuse the biggest backbench revolt since Labour returned to power.

More than 120 MPs are demanding that the cut be delayed for at least a year, and many have said that they will vote against the Government or abstain next week when the Commons considers changes that would reduce some parents' benefits by up to £11 a week from April ..... Page 1

CJD transplants spark health alert

■ Health officials launched an urgent inquiry into transplant procedures after it emerged that three patients had received tissue from the eyes of a Scottish woman with Creutzfeld-Jakob disease, the human form of mad cow disease. Screening guidelines may now be changed ..... Page 1

Whitehall "peace"

The Lord Chancellor has proposed a new collective government, signalling an end to Whitehall "turf wars" and damaging inter-departmental spending battles ..... Page 1

EMU united

Kenneth Clarke is prepared to share a platform with Tony Blair in a referendum campaign seeking support for British single currency membership ..... Page 1

No 10 date for Adams

Gerry Adams will meet Tony Blair at Downing Street on December 11 ..... Page 2

£180m dropouts

The cost of the estimated 17 per cent of students who drop out of university has been put at £180 million ..... Page 4

Spencer fights on

Earl Spencer is determined to continue with his divorce hearing, despite the threat of further damaging allegations ..... Page 6

Coal crisis

Ministers were drawing up a plan to head off a coal industry crisis, amid warnings that 5,000 jobs and at least five pits are at risk ..... Page 7

Opera exits?

Resignations from the Royal Opera House board and management were predicted by MPs in advance of a highly critical parliamentary report ..... Page 8

Plain speaking

Tony Blair has been told his "fluent" French is not good enough as language courses prepare ministers and civil servants for Britain's EU presidency ..... Page 10

Sperm 'infected'

Italian fertility clinics were inundated with calls from panicked patients after a top gynaecologist was accused of knowingly inseminating women with infected sperm ..... Page 12

Pakistani crisis

Fears of a military takeover grew as a worsening power struggle between President Leghari and Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, led to constitutional and political breakdown ..... Page 13

Free hard drugs

Changing hard-drug policies across Europe mean many addicts get free injections, subsidised by city or state, in a controlled environment .. Page 14

Spy shadow

Spy scandals overshadowed Moscow talks between Helmut Kohl and President Yeltsin on future relationships between the Kremlin, Paris and Bonn Page 15

Climate for change

The US is in danger of becoming the villain of today's Kyoto global warming talks as 160 countries seek to bridge divisions between it and other industrialised countries ..... Page 16

British cones are clearly the best

■ Drivers in traffic jams drumming their fingers impatiently on steering wheels will gain little consolation from the news, but British roadworks have been given the German seal of approval. For pure efficiency, clarity and courtesy to motorists, our system has been praised as brilliant by German and Austrian motoring experts ..... Page 1

GROCCHIONI

Worshippers celebrate Mass yesterday in the reopened Lower Church of the thirteen century St Francis of Assisi, damaged by earthquake two months ago. The Upper Church, more seriously affected, is unlikely to reopen before the Millennium

BUSINESS

IMF to the rescue: South Korea has agreed a $20 billion (£11.9 billion) IMF rescue loan to help it to cope with its deepening economic crisis ..... Page 52

The London Stock Exchange will investigate the latest in a series of irregular share price movements since the October introduction of a new trading system ..... Page 52

Cash plea: Investors in Eagle Trust, which suffered a £13 million theft during the 1987 stockmarket crash, make a final plea for more money when it seeks voluntary liquidation today ..... Page 49

Dog days: Merrydown, the cider company that has run into problems with Two Dogs alcholic lemonade, is set to announce further disappointing results ..... Page 49

ARTS

Barber's snips: Birmingham's Barber Institute of Fine Arts boasts the choicest small collection of paintings in Britain — and now it has made three stunning purchases ..... Page 20

Born again: Just as the obituaries for Britpop are being written, one of its foremost bands, Blur, come storming back to play a blinder to their UK tour ..... Page 20

Lean times: The recent plaudits for the films of David Lean prompt Melvyn Bragg to recall working with the great director on a script of *Mutiny on the Bounty* ..... Page 21

Beau Beckett: Benedict Nightingale reviews Peter Brook's production of *Oh Les Beaux Jours*, widely seen as Beckett's masterpiece of metaphoric daring ..... Page 21

Ancient secrets: The race is on to preserve one of eastern Europe's most spectacular archaeological sites and keep the antiquities mafia at bay, says Ajana Ahuja ..... Page 17

Miami heist: With their extravagant lifestyle and exotic accents, the young couple fitted in well with Miami's jetsetters. Then they were arrested ..... Page 19

Funding fear: What effect has the death of Diana, Princess of Wales had on charities? ..... Page 43

Better service: How Charter Mark awards are helping more than 350 organisations to give better service ..... Pages 44, 45

Football: Manchester United strengthened their position at the top of the FA Carling Premiership with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Blackburn Rovers. Liverpool won 1-0 at Arsenal ..... Pages 27, 31

Golf: Lee Westwood's growing maturity was underlined again when he overcame Greg Norman, the world No 1, in a play-off to win the Australian Open ..... Page 29

Rugby union: England began to show signs of the intense physical and mental strain of the present series of internationals in their heavy defeat by South Africa at Twickenham ..... Page 34

Tennis: The merit of Sweden's 5-0 victory over the United States in the Davis Cup final was diminished by the injury that forced out Pete Sampras ..... Page 29

Cricket: West Indies allowed the opportunity to seize the initiative to slip from their grasp on the second day of the second Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi ..... Page 29

Angling: Government plans to build 2.2 million houses in the greenbelt and on farmland spell disaster ..... Page 38

2, 8, 21, 29, 46, 47, **Bonus** 28. One ticket won the £9.4 million jackpot. Nineteen ticket-holders with five numbers and the bonus each won £152,305; 744 with five balls won £2,430; more than 46,000 with four balls won £86.

Preview: Autism Awareness Week is the cue for *Equinox: Mind-readers* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on green royalty and Robson Green ..... Pages 50, 51

OPINION

No fault or flaw

Lord Irvine is right to want to knock heads together. He must just take care that his own does not grow too big ..... Page 23

The Czech Thatcher

Mr Klaus's errors have been those of implementation, not of strategy; in rejecting his acerbic leadership, the country's politicians must not depart from his modernising message ..... Page 23

Dr Arnold's disciples

British myopia, sadly, is one reason why this country has responded so hamfistedly to the catastrophe on Montserrat ..... Page 23

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

The current Tory performance is the worst I have seen, worse even than that of Labour under Michael Foot ..... Page 22

DAVID ABULAFIA

The City of Light purports to be the travel diary of a Jewish Italian merchant who in 1270 reached south China. Is it a hoax? Page 22

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Morally it is absurd to distinguish killing on horseback from killing in gumboots, or killing with dogs from killing with fishhooks ..... Page 22

OBITUARIES

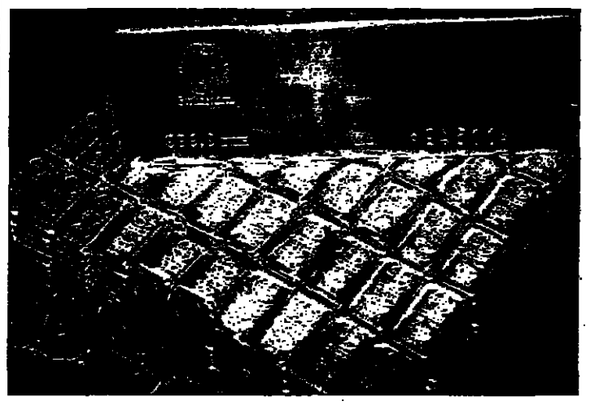
Jon Silkin, poet; **Lord Wilson of Langside**, Lord Advocate 1967-70; **Air Vice-Marshal Wilfrid Oulton** ..... Page 25

LETTERS

Voluntary euthanasia; Kyoto summit on climate change; Labour's out-of-school clubs; hunting Bill; victims of crime, mental illness ..... Page 23

THE EURO

In little less than a year the single currency will be on its way to reality. But the birth of the new Europe will be difficult; Germans secretly fear that the nation states will ruin themselves without managing to create the new supranational entity ... The European dream will then be in tatters — *La Stampa* (Turin)



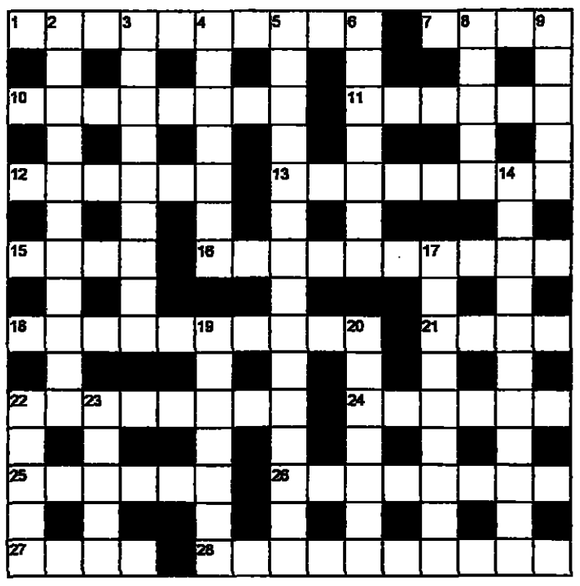
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **NAZI GOLD**
A conference of experts and politicians to unravel the wartime trade in gold stolen by the Nazis starts in London

■ **LAW**
Why London is the libel capital of the world

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,651



ACROSS

1 Incantation in 9, but not mumbo-jumbo (5-5).
7 Foremost of those shot after revolution (4).
10 Secretive way to replace head in fine form (8).
11 Speculative view of ambassador held by politician (6).
12 Function of cricket side, one assembled by church (6).
13 Frenchman entitled to make allowance for weight when carrying rock (8).
15 Thoroughly search for source of honey (4).
16 Endless luck, as robin flying around is seen in these? (10).
18 Bold undertaking, to enrol in force (10).
21 Information about lake in narrow valley (4).
22 Arrogant fool with posh china (8).
24 Ancient vessel put together by, say, military engineers (6).
25 Like the arrangement of feet concealed in some tricycles (6).
26 Quietly abandons train trip, somehow creating annoyance (8).
27 Temporary accommodation for wine (4).
28 Fish's companion? Possibly one in the same stream (10).

DOWN

2 Off limits, like an exhausted kangaroo? (3,2,6).
3 Distant, and powerless to hold train up (9).
4 Fuss over British plant (3-4).
5 On high perch, perhaps, weep and disparage one's own efforts (3,3,4).
6 Cutting thus, limiting girl's rise (7).
8 Act like Bunter and express derision (5).
9 Recital of Frost's verse (5).
14 Make drink, passing over servants? That's a bloomer (6-2-3).
17 Napier's invention to record an aspect of music heard (9).
19 Charges embroiling northern royals (7).
20 Prohibition makes 'em move beyond normal drinking environment (7).
22 Acknowledge head of metro in underground passage (5).
23 Was present as visitor weaved fabric (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,650 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.44 am — Sun sets: 3.55 pm

Moon sets 5.35 pm — Moon rises 8.36 am

First quarter December 7

London 3.55 pm to 7.45 am
Bristol 4.05 pm to 7.55 am
Edinburgh 3.44 pm to 8.21 am
Manchester 3.54 pm to 8.03 am
Penzance 4.23 pm to 8.01 am

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** after early frost the east and north will have sunshine and showers with snow in Scotland above 500 feet. Showers will also turn to snow over hills in northeast England. Southwest Scotland, North Wales and the north Midlands will be dry and fairly sunny. Southern England and South Wales will cloud over with rain breaking out, especially in the South West, with snow possible on moors. Tonight very cold.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** cloud and rain spreading from west. Light to moderate variable wind. Max 46F (8C)

☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England:** cold with bright spells and wintry showers. Moderate NW wind. Max 43F (6C)

☐ **Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Cent N England, Northern Ireland:** dry with sunny intervals but perhaps wintry showers later. Moderate N wind. Max 43F (6C)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** cold and frosty at first, followed by sunny intervals. Isolated wintry showers. Moderate N wind. Max 41F (5C)

☐ **Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cold and blustery with bright spells and heavy wintry showers, snow on hills. Moderate to fresh N wind. Max 39F (4C)

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** cloud and showers will clear to give a dry, bright afternoon. Wind N, light, fresh by evening. Max 8C (46F)

☐ **Outlook:** even colder with widespread frost overnight.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

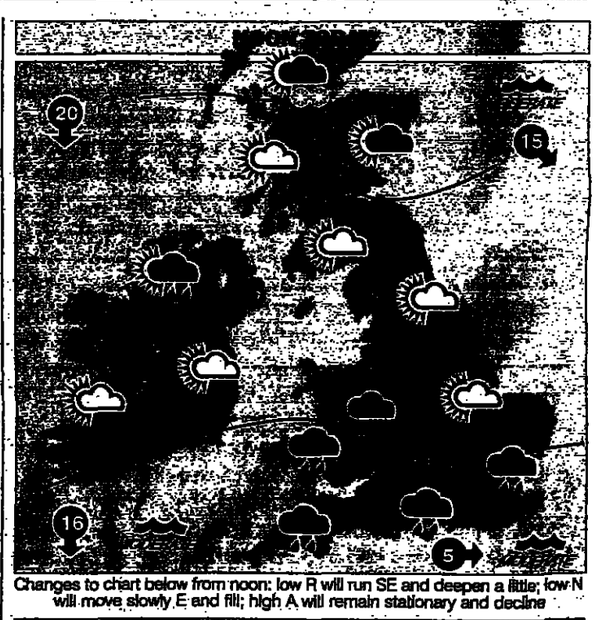
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.8	0.13	5	41	sh	Jersey	2.7	0.10	12	54	b
Anglesey	4.6	0.05	10	50	s	Kinloss	2.4	0.08	6	43	s
Aspatria	4.2	0.03	6	43	s	Leeds	2.0	0.05	8	46	sh
Aviemore	2.3	0.15	4	39	h	Leuchars	6.2	0.04	7	45	s
Belfast	0.9	0.01	9	48	b	Littlehmptn	0.2	0.01	10	50	du
Birmingham	2.2	0.02	8	46	b	London	-	0.09	9	48	du
Bognor R	0.7	0.01	9	48	c	Margate	-	0.11	9	48	r
Bournem'th	1.2	0.01	10	50	b	Mildenhead	2.8	0.59	10	50	b
Bristol	1.9	-	10	50	b	Morecambe	2.3	0.01	8	46	b
Buxton	0.1	0.01	5	41	b	Newcastle	2.3	0.41	7	45	sh
Cardiff	3.2	0.01	10	50	s	Norwich	0.2	0.38	9	48	sh
Clacton	0.2	0.14	9	48	c	Oxford	-	0.01	9	48	r
Cleethorpes	0.7	0.06	8	46	r	Penzance	X	0.08	13	55	sh
Colwyn Bay	0.5	0.01	9	48	c	Poole	1.8	0.01	10	50	s
Cromer	-	0.17	9	48	du	Prestatyn	X	0.01	9	48	b
Eastbourne	-	0.01	10	50	c	Ross-o-wye	3.6	-	9	48	s
Edinburgh	2.4	0.06	7	45	s	Saunton Snd	1.9	0.02	12	54	c
Eskdalemuir	5.4	0.03	5	41	s	Scarboro'	1.2	0.22	7	45	sh
Exmouth	4.9	0.02	11	52	s	Shrewsbury	2.2	0.01	8	46	s
Falmouth	1.1	0.10	13	55	b	Skegness	0.5	0.06	9	48	c
Fishguard	3.2	0.10	9	48	b	Southend	-	0.20	10	50	c
Folkestone	-	0.14	9	48	r	Southport	1.6	0.08	8	46	s
Glasgow	4.4	-	8	46	b	Stornoway	2.4	0.19	6	43	h
Guernsey	0.3	0.07	13	55	c	Swanage	1.0	-	10	50	c
Hastings	-	0.02	9	48	d	Teignmouth	6.0	0.02	12	54	s
Hayling I.	1.0	0.01	10	50	b	Tenby	2.9	0.11	10	50	b
Herne Bay	-	0.09	11	52	sh	Tiree	4.6	0.01	9	48	sh
Hove	-	-	10	50	du	Torquay	5.8	0.01	13	55	s
Hunstanton	X	0.16	9	48	c	West-s-mare	1.5	-	11	52	s
Isle-of-Wight	X	0.02	12	54	r	Weymouth	4.7	-	12	54	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	r	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	18	64	s
Akrotiri	22	72	f	C'phagn	3	37	r	Malaga	18	64	s
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	c	Malta	18	64	f
Algiers	18	64	f	Faro	17	63	f	Melb'rne	23	73	c
Amst'dm	11	52	c	Florence	13	55	r	Mexico C	X		
Athens	17	63	f	Frankfurt	11	52	c	Miami	26	79	f
B Aires	18	64	r	Funchal	19	66	c	Milan	10	50	d
Bahrain	23	73	c	Geneva	13	55	s	Montreal	1	34	X
Bangkok	35	95	s	Gibraltar	17	63	s	Moscow	-7	19	f
Barbados	X			Helsinki	1	34	c	Munich	11	52	f
Barcelona	15	59	f	Hong K	24	75	c	N Delhi	20	68	s
Beirut	22	72	f	Innsbruck	7	45	c	N York	11	52	s
Belgrade	13	55	f	Istanbul	11	52	r	Nairobi	18	64	r
Berlin	4	39	c	Jeddah	33	91		Naples	16	61	f
Bermuda	23	73	s	Jo'burg	20	68	f	Nice	13	55	c
Biarritz	11	52	r	Karachi	X			Oslo	0	32	c
Birmingham	9	48	r	L Angeles	16	61	s	Paris	11	52	f
Borde'x	11	52	f	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	7	45	s
Brussels	11	52	c	Le Tquet	11	52	f	Perth	25	77	s
Budapest	7	45	c	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	7	45	c
Cairo	24	75	f	Locarno	8	46	c	Reykjavik	3	37	f
Cape Tn	31	88	s	Luxembg	8	46	r	Rhodes	20	68	f
Ch'church	X			Luxor	27	81	s	Rio de J	22	72	f
Chicago	9	48	r	Madrid	12	54	f	Riyadh	21	70	s
Cologne	10	50	c								

Rome	14	57	r
S Fr'isco	12	54	s
S Paulo	X		
Salzburg	7	45	c
Santiago	24	75	s
Seoul	7	45	r
Sing'por	32	90	f
St'kholm	-3	27	c
Strasb'rg	11	52	c
Sydney	24	75	f
Tangier	17	63	s
Tel Aviv	24	75	s
Tenerife	24	75	f
Tokyo	10	50	r
Toronto	6	43	s
Tunis	18	64	c
Valencia	18	64	s
Vanc'ver	7	45	r
Venice	11	52	r
Vienna	5	41	c
Warsaw	-1	30	c
Wash'ton	11	52	c
Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Zurich	11	52	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low R will run SE and deepen a little; low N will move slowly E and fill; high A will remain stationary and decline

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02.13	7.1	14.32	7.1	Leith	03.09	5.4	16.24	5.5
Aberdeen	01.43	4.2	13.57	4.3	Liverpool	11.44	9.4	-	-
Avonmouth	07.42	13.2	19.59	13.1	Lowestoft	09.57	2.5	22.13	2.6
Belfast	11.29	3.5	23.49	3.4	Margate	00.18	4.7	12.25	4.7
Cardiff	07.28	12.2	19.45	12.1	Milford Haven	06.41	6.8	18.59	6.8
Devonport	06.19	5.5	18.39	5.4	Newquay	05.32	6.9	17.50	6.8
Dover	11.24	6.6	23.47	6.6	Oban	06.15	4.1	18.21	4.0
Dublin (N Wall)	-	-	12.02	4.1	Penzance	05.01	5.5	17.18	5.4
Falmouth	05.50	5.3	18.10	5.2	Portland	07.22	2.2	19.48	2.1
Greenock	00.51	3.3	13.22	3.5	Portsmouth	11.50	4.7	-	-
Harwich	00.12	4.0	12.31	4.0	Shoreham	11.36	6.1	-	-
Holyhead	10.49	5.6	23.09	5.5	Southampton	11.12	4.6	23.34	4.5
Hull (Albert D)	06.48	8.5	19.03	8.6	Swansea	06.49	9.4	18.60	9.2
Ilfracombe	06.27	9.1	18.45	9.0	Tees	04.01	5.3	16.18	5.4
King's Lynn	06.49	6.6	19.06	6.7	Walton-on-N	00.06	4.1	12.24	4.1

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Carlinham, Cornwall, 0.78in; highest sunshine: Leuchars, Fife, 6.2hr

Under the weather?

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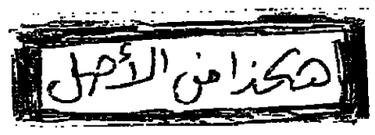

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

FINAL WARNING
Why the Davis Cup must not be devalued
PAGE 29

SHARK HUNTER
Westwood lands big prize in Greg Norman's back yard
PAGE 29

THE MEN WHO FELL TO EARTH
England battered into submission by Springboks
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Reports from all the Premiership matches
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 1 1997

CHAMPIONSHIP PRETENDERS BRUSHED ASIDE AT OLD TRAFFORD

Solskjaer defies the attentions of Kenna, the Blackburn defender, to pounce on Sheringham's delicate chipped pass and fire United into the lead at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

United in a league of their own

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

THE last time Manchester United played one of the pretenders to their throne, they threw them a little morsel, allowed them to think that there was hope. Yesterday, at Old Trafford, United retracted the largesse that they had extended to Arsenal and made Blackburn Rovers pay for the impudence of suggesting a challenge for the title. This time, there was no hint of weakness from the champions, just pure footballing ruthlessness.

During some periods of the second half, it seemed as though United were playing an exhibition game. They strolled as they played and smiled at mistakes. Alex Ferguson, their manager, joined in the jocularity, laughing at the lusty cheers that greeted the every touch of a rare appearance by Brian McClair. This was a team utterly secure in its dominance.

The 4-0 win over their Lancashire rivals took their tally for November to 23 goals, and 20 in their past four home matches. They are rampant in the FA Carling Premiership as well as the European Cup Champions' League, steamrollering anyone who gets in their way. They are three points clear at the top of the table, but, on the form that they showed yesterday, it might as well be 33.

Two goals from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, both clinical and expert finishes, started the rout and Blackburn contributed another two themselves with own goals from Stephane Henchoz and Jeff Kenna. Now they know the size of the task that lies ahead.

United have grown so much in stature, even in the course of this season, that they look like supermen. Butt and Berg, in particular, were kicked from pillar to post yesterday, but, just like some footballing versions of Arnold Schwarzenegger in *The Terminator*, they kept getting up when everyone was sure they would have to stay down. To Blackburn, to everyone, United are taking on the collective aura of an indestructible machine.

Starting with five players in midfield and Chris Sutton alone in attack, Blackburn tried to choke United by blocking their routes down the flanks. Ferguson's team just plundered the middle road instead and, once behind, Rovers' defence-orientated team could find no way back. "We will have to learn once again to suck the bitter pill of defeat," Roy Hodgson, their manager, said afterwards.

Poor Sutton. So isolated was he in attack, so comprehensively shackled by Berg, his former team-mate, that frustration overwhelmed him. One late scything tackle on his tormentor earned him a yellow card and a stab at the shins of Butt 12 minutes after half-time produced the red. It was not quite the way that he would have wanted to celebrate the signing of his lucrative new contract at Ewood Park.

By then, the game was lost anyway. Blackburn, who before yesterday had only conceded four goals away from home all season, did not manage a shot on target until 20 minutes from the end and Schmeichel saved that, from Gallacher, when he really had no right to. That apart, it was one-way traffic.

United had nearly gone ahead in the tenth minute, when Flowers raced off his line to try to reach a long cross from Gary Neville that always seemed destined to elude him. Andy Cole leapt for it, too, and beat Flowers, but nodded the ball just wide of the right-hand upright before the goalkeeper flattened him.

Seven minutes later, though, United went ahead. Solskjaer, playing as the left-sided member of a front three, alongside Sheringham and Cole, received the ball with his back to goal, laid a neat ball back to Sheringham and span past his marker. Sheringham lifted it delicately over Kenna and back into the path of the Norwegian, who cushioned it on his chest and volleyed past Flowers with his left foot.

Tempers rose midway through the half as Sutton and Berg began their running feud and Butt and Sherwood swapped crunching fouls. If Solskjaer received most of the plaudits after the game, though, Berg deserved the man-of-the-match award for keeping cool and snuffing out Sutton single-handedly with a series of perfectly-timed tackles every bit as precise as Solskjaer's finishing.

Solskjaer provided the second example of his fine art eight minutes after the interval when Sheringham flicked Schmeichel's long kick into his path. He delayed momentarily to try to get Flowers to commit himself and then fired the ball decisively past him into the middle of the net. That put the game out of reach; the rest just rubbed it in.

The United supporters baited Blackburn with cries of "Are you City in disguise?" and Rovers did their best to fit the description by sealing their own fate. Henchoz was first, turning Phil Neville's fiercely-struck cross past Flowers as Cole lurked, then Kenna made it even worse when he clipped McClair's harmless through-ball past his advancing goalkeeper five minutes from the end. Cole could have made it 5-0 in the dying seconds, but he pulled his shot just wide from ten yards out after chesting down a clever cross from Poborsky.

By then, it was all academic and Ferguson was left to reflect on a happy St Andrews Day. "God looks after a Scotsman," he said. "Don't worry about that."

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, G Pallister (sub: K Poborsky, 69min), P Neville — D Beckham, N Butt (sub R Johnsen, 65), R Giggs — E Sheringham (sub: B McClair, 75), A Cole, O G Solskjaer.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-5-1): T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, T Pedersen, G Croft — S Ripley (sub L Bohinen, 62), W McKinlay (sub: K Gallacher, 60), T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox (sub: D Duff, 75) — C Sutton
Referee: A Wilkie

MANCHESTER UNITED 4 — 0 BLACKBURN ROVERS
Solskjaer 18, 53
Henchoz 60 (og)
Kenna 85 (og)
Attendance: 55,175

Top of the table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Manchester Utd	16	10	4	2	40	12	34	+28
Chelsea	16	10	1	5	35	17	31	+18
Blackburn	16	8	6	2	27	17	30	+10
Leeds United	16	9	2	5	26	19	28	+7
Arsenal	16	7	6	3	30	18	27	+12

In 11 Premiership matches between Manchester United and Blackburn since 1992, Blackburn have managed just one victory and three draws, securing six points out of a possible 33.

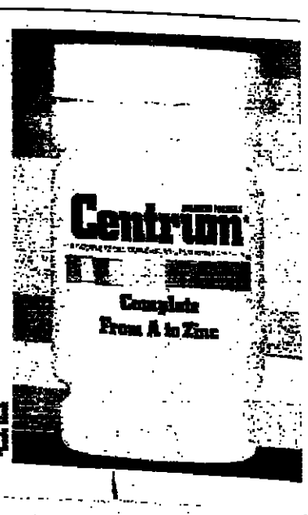
Results in recent years*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Manchester Utd	11	7	3	1	21	11	24	+10
Blackburn	11	1	3	7	11	21	6	-10

*Manchester United first

Everton's plight 30
McManaman shines 31
Celtic triumph 33

100% ARE YOU?



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هكذا من الأصل

SNOOKER: O'SULLIVAN BATTLES TO STAY IN TOUCH IN FINAL OF UNITED KINGDOM CHAMPIONSHIP

Hendry clawed back by resilient rival

By Phil Yates

STEPHEN HENDRY was halfway towards a fourth successive triumph in the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship and his sixth since 1989 when he led Ronnie O'Sullivan 5-4 after the first session of the final at Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

The Scot, who had grown in confidence as the 19-day competition progressed, never fell behind, but found pulling clear of O'Sullivan a problem that he could not solve. Twice, Hendry threatened to seize control but on both occasions O'Sullivan stood firm.

O'Sullivan's greatest asset is a refusal to be intimidated by any opponent, Hendry included. This is borne out by the fact that, with six victories from 14 meetings, he boasts the best record against Hendry of any leading player.

An 89 clearance enabled Hendry to strike the initial blow. He then won a disjointed second frame on the green and led 13-0 in the third, when O'Sullivan came to life. Two breaks of 78, the first launched by a fearless red to a middle pocket, enabled the 21-year-old to level the scores at 2-2.

When O'Sullivan subsequently enjoyed a 44-1 advantage in the fifth frame, Hendry looked in danger of being on the receiving end of an O'Sullivan purple patch. Just as suddenly, O'Sullivan started to misfire. He missed a straightforward red and Hendry eventually fashioned an outstanding 57 clearance to pink, moving 4-2 ahead with the aid of a well-crafted run of 67 in the sixth.

O'Sullivan won the next frame unspectacularly, but when Hendry, playing at a slightly more deliberate pace than usual, built a 5-3 lead with a 68 break, the momentum that had ebbed and flowed from the outset shifted once more.

Leading 33-0 in the closing frame of the session, Hendry was unfortunate when O'Sullivan unintentionally left the cue-ball awkwardly hanging in the jaw of a baulk pocket. An ineffective safety shot resulted and O'Sullivan pounced with a 98 clearance to remain in contention.

Hendry places great store on systematically erasing the achievement of Steve Davis, his greatest rival over the past decade, if not on present form, from the record books. As such, victory over O'Sullivan would be particularly sweet.

A successful defence of the United Kingdom title would install Hendry as the most prolific winner of world-ranking tournaments. He and Davis both had 28, but, while Hendry has not added one since the International Open in February, Davis has been stuck on that figure since prevailing at the Regal Welsh Open in 1995.

"I don't really think a lot about statistics, but that one means a lot because it underlines consistency," Hendry, who has comprehensively eclipsed Davis in terms of total prize-money earned and century breaks compiled, said.

Hendry has converted 64 of his 84 appearances in finals, but, frustratingly, has lost his past three. He was beaten 9-2 by Mark Williams in the climax to the British Open, 18-12 by Ken Doherty in the Embassy world championship and, perhaps most significantly, 10-8 by O'Sullivan in the European League.

Considering what was at stake last night, Hendry had to cope with a substantially heavier burden of pressure than his rival. It was a similar scenario to the one in 1993, when O'Sullivan defeated him 10-6 to become, one week short of his 18th birthday, the youngest player to lift a world-ranking trophy.

Hendry required five of the remaining ten frames to collect the £75,000 first prize while O'Sullivan, winner of an invitation tournament in China three months ago, needed six to become the first player this season to capture two titles.

FINAL: S Hendry (Scot) leads R O'Sullivan (Eng) 5-4. Frame scores (Hendry first): 103-29, 75-37, 13-78, 10-115, 63-44, 88-16, 28-67, 73-21, 33-98.

Hendry secures an early advantage during the defence of his United Kingdom title in Preston yesterday. Photograph: Eric Whitehead

Rift with Williams puts McKenzie's job in jeopardy

By Phil Yates

THE political infighting that blighted snooker last year seems likely to reignite today when a board meeting of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) convenes to discuss the future of its chief executive, Jim McKenzie.

Differences between McKenzie, who was only appointed during the summer, and Rex Williams, the WPBSA chairman, have resulted in a potential rift that could create a climate of instability that the game can ill afford.

Ian Doyle, recognised as snooker's most influential manager — his clients include Stephen Hendry, Ronnie O'Sullivan and Ken Doherty, the world champion — is enraged that McKenzie faces the probability of losing his job. Hendry, usually reluctant to become embroiled in such disputes, describes the situation as "an absolute disgrace".

Joe Beeston, the chief executive of Highland Spring, the new sponsor of the Scottish Open next February, has publicly stated that his company will withdraw its support if the WPBSA board, which meets today near Preston, decides to sack McKenzie.

If he is dismissed, Doyle, who controls 15 votes in the WPBSA's limited electorate of 48, will demand a special general meeting at which he will call for the removal of Williams as chairman.

"I supported Rex on the clear understanding that a management team would be appointed and given the freedom to manage the sport's affairs," he said.

Jim Chambers, a WPBSA board member who believes McKenzie should be retained, is bemused by the whole affair. "Nothing I've seen or heard has convinced me that Jim isn't doing a first-rate job," he said. Meanwhile, Williams has refused to comment until after today's meeting.

☐ Karen Corr, of Northern Ireland, maintained her stranglehold on the women's game by completing a hat-trick of United Kingdom championship wins in Preston yesterday.

She beat Lynette Horsburgh, of Blackpool, the world No 8, 4-3 in in a low-scoring final — the highest break was 36 — after trailing 3-2. It was a fifth successive tournament victory for Lincolnshire-based Corr, 28, who is the world champion and world No 1.

RUGBY LEAGUE

No relegation in drastic shake-up

By Christopher Irvine

UPHEAVAL is hardly new to rugby league, but the 1998 Super League season incorporates more than the usual number of changes and includes no relegation for the 12 clubs, a midsummer break for international competition in July and a Superbowl-style grand final to determine the champions.

The league programme will start later than usual, at the McAlpine Stadium on April 3, when promoted Huddersfield Giants meet Bradford Bulls, last season's champions, under the first-past-the-post system that has now been abandoned after 25 years in favour of a top five play-off series.

Until 1973, play-off matches were a feature of the championship for more than 60 years. The latest system is based on the model in Australia and will take place over four weekends when the league programme is completed on September 27. The final will replace the Premiership finale at Old Trafford.

How the three-week break in July will be filled has still to be precisely determined. A triangular tournament featuring Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand and a simultaneous home international series are under consideration, as are short tours by New Zealand and Western Samoa next autumn, in the likelihood of the World Cup being postponed.

The First and Second Division Clubs Association (Fasda) wants a single division outside the Super League next season, but, at the Rugby League Council meeting at Salford on Wednesday, its members will oppose the explusion of Keighley and Workington from the Rugby Football League (RFL) as the two clubs are insolvent. The proposal can only be passed if four of the 19 association clubs were to vote with the 12 Super League clubs.

OPENING FIXTURES: Super League: Apr 3: Huddersfield Giants v Bradford Bulls. Apr 5: Leeds Rhinos v Warrington Wolves, London Broncos v Halifax Blue Sox, Salford Reds v St Helens, Sheffield Eagles v Hull Sharks, Wigan Warriors v Castleford Tigers

HOCKEY: READING TAKE A PAINFUL TUMBLE IN CUP AND LEAGUE

Tigers claw way into the last eight

By Sydney Friskin

READING, Southgate, Old Loughtonians and Hounslow failed to survive the fifth round of the EHA Men's Cup yesterday as Cannock and Canterbury staked their claims to places among the last eight.

The scalps of Reading and Southgate were claimed by Barford Tigers and Beeston respectively, while Old Loughtonians and Hounslow were losers at Cannock and Canterbury.

The lead that Ashdown had given Reading in the second minute proved unavailing as Dharminder Singh hit back for Barford Tigers, the home side, with a goal from open play in the 26th minute and another from a penalty stroke eight minutes before the end.

Southgate, the visitors, were 3-0 down in 24 minutes against Beeston before Attala and Simons replied two minutes before and after the interval. For Beeston, Keegan scored twice, the first goal from a short corner, with Randall adding to the score.

Cannock recovered from an early setback to establish a 4-2 lead and held on to their advantage after Dover had scored for Old Loughtonians in the sixtieth minute.

Canterbury were 4-2 winners against Hounslow with Humphries, Mathews, Hacker and Cummings sharing the spoils. Whalley and Rose replied for Hounslow.

Doncaster, after trailing 2-1 at half-time, recovered to beat St Albans 3-2 at Clarence Park and join Chichester, Stourport and Old Cranleighans in the quarter-finals.

It was a disappointing weekend for Reading, who slipped to fifth position in the premier division of the National League on Saturday after losing 3-2 to Teddington, leaving Cannock still at the top, a point ahead of Southgate and East Grinstead, with Canterbury knocking at the door in fourth position.

Greg Nicol consolidated his position as top scorer with six goals, five from short corners, in the 8-2 defeat of Firebrands.

Hightown expose class divisions

By a Correspondent

HIGHTOWN, the holders, cruised into the last 16 of the EHA Women's Cup by beating the first division high-flyers, Canterbury, 5-1 yesterday. In the process, they emphasised the gulf in standards between the divisions.

Despite an early penalty miss by Kate Walsh, Hightown took a commanding lead with two goals each from Lucy Newcombe and Jo Bradburn against Jackie Empson's lone reply. Walsh atoned for her miss with a successful penalty conversion almost on time.

In a high-scoring round, Olton defeated Taunton Vale 9-0, with Sally Wright and Mandy Gatherer claiming hat-tricks. Lisa Hunter went one better by scoring four in Chelmsford's 6-1 victory over Southampton. Sutton Coldfield regained their scoring touch with an 8-1 win over Swindon, in which Sarah Kent scored a hat-trick.

Clifton's long journey to Whitley Bay had a successful 6-1 conclusion, while the cup favourites, Slough, found scoring surprisingly difficult, eventually winning 2-1 at the first division strugglers, Bradford. Doncaster had a walkover into the last 16 when Blueharts withdrew.

In Saturday's Premier League programme, the leaders, Slough, increased their impressive goal tally to 41 in seven games by beating Hightown 4-1 after leading 3-0 at half-time.

Clifton carried on their winning ways with a 3-1 victory over Sutton Coldfield that added to the Midlanders' relegation worries.

Olton's run of success continued with a 3-1 away victory over Trojans, while Doncaster picked up only their second league point with a hard-fought 2-2 home draw against Ipswich.

In the first division, Leicester maintained their three-point lead with a 3-0 win at Bradford, but the second division leaders, Woking, lost 2-1 and the top spot to Old Loughtonians.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Panthers storm ahead to set pace in Superleague

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Nottingham Panthers are the new leaders of the Superleague (Norman de Mesquita writes). A 3-2 win over Basingstoke Bison on Saturday, after a 5-3 success against Manchester Storm in midweek, enabled them to leapfrog the Storm and take a one-point lead at the top of the table. After a scoreless first period, Darren Hurley scored the only goal of the second to give the Bison the lead. After three minutes of the final session, Derek Laxdal brought the Panthers level, but, when Greg Gatto scored for the Bison with just under six minutes remaining, an upset looked on the cards. However, goals by Paul Adey and Jeff Sebastian gave Nottingham the points, the winning goal coming with just 19sec on the clock.

In Saturday's only other game, Bracknell Bees beat Ayr Eagles to move into fifth place, just two points behind the Scottish side. Wayde Bucsis was the main contributor to Bracknell's success, scoring two goals, including the winner with only 4sec remaining in overtime.

Olsson lifts British morale

■ **BOBSLEIGHING: Sean Olsson, of Great Britain, was celebrating his first bobsleigh medal in leading competitions last night after finishing third in the second round of the Corel World Cup Tour in Winterberg, Germany. Olsson and his Zanussi crew of Dean Ward, Courtney Rumbolt and Paul Attwood produced the fastest time of 54.59sec on the second and final run to win the bronze medal by just 0.02sec.**

Their aggregate time of 1min 49.52sec was only 0.08sec slower than Brian Shimer, of the United States, who won the gold medal by 0.02sec from Harald Czudaj, of Germany. The result was a boost to British hopes of winning an Olympic medal at the Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, in February. Two weeks ago, Olsson finished sixth in the four-man event at the opening World Cup race in Calgary.

Essex men into the last eight

■ **BOWLS:** Essex, who have never won the Liberty Trophy, came back from a 12-shot deficit at half-time to defeat Kent 119-106 on Saturday and secure a place in the quarter-finals of the national inter-county championship. Not even the presence of the former world indoor pairs champions, Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, could save Kent from defeat. Two counties — Cornwall and Hampshire — lost their final round-robin matches to Dorset and Berkshire respectively, but still survived to qualify for the last eight, thanks to their performances in their opening games.

Thaxton hangs on to his title

■ **BOXING: John Thaxton retained his World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation light-welterweight titles by defeating Rimvidas Bilius, of Latvia, at the Norwich Sports Village on Saturday night. Although Thaxton was worth his victory, he could not knock out an extremely durable opponent and had to be content with a points victory. Michele Piccirillo, of Italy, became the new European Boxing Union welterweight champion after beating Geoff McCreesh, of Great Britain, on a technical knockout in Novara, Italy.**

Late rule change brings relief

■ **TENNIS:** Great Britain, beaten 2-0 by France in their final match, were saved from relegation from the first division of the European women's team championship at Barkingside yesterday by a sudden change of rules. Despite beating Austria, the group winners, on Saturday, Britain finished bottom after losing to both Sweden and France and were resigned to relegation — but then came last-minute relief when they were informed by the European Tennis Association that they would not go down as next year the first division would be enlarged to two groups of six, instead of two groups of four.

Forster leaves Searle trailing

■ **ROWING: Stefan Forster, of Germany, snatched the British indoor championship from Greg Searle at Reading yesterday. Forster, a world championship gold medal-winner in 1995, led from the start and was a length ahead of Searle with 500 metres to race. Searle, back in training for just three weeks since his recent marriage, failed to produce his usual final burst and lost second place in the last few strokes to Louis Attrill, who was No 3 in the Great Britain eight last summer. Thames RC produced a clean sweep of medals in the women's open class.**

Law breezes past Frenchman

■ **SAILING:** Chris Law, of Great Britain, beat Thierry Pepponet, of France, 3-0 on Saturday to win the Bayona Match Racing championship in Spain, his third Grade 1 victory of the year. Law, sailing with his regular crew of Julian Salter, James Stagg and Andy Hemmings, with Ben Ainslie making another guest appearance as "breeze sniffer", reached the final after posting a 3-0 win over Jochen Schumann, of Germany, in the semi-finals. This week, Law, who is ranked No 6 in the world, competes in his last Grade 1 event of the year in the US Virgin Islands.

Baker has edge in sprint finish

■ **CYCLING: David Baker, who in recent years has made a lucrative living from mountain bike races, yesterday showed that he has lost none of the skill demanded by cyclo-cross events with a sprint victory in the 28-kilometre international race on a new circuit at Eastway, Stratford, East London. The Yorkshire rider, one of a few to win a British junior and senior open cyclo-cross title, found an extra fraction of speed to beat Roger Hammond, the former world junior champion, by a bicycle length as the pair headed the six-strong leading group to the finishing line.**

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Oxford gamble boosts league

By Tony Hoare

OXFORD have taken a financial gamble and rescued the Elite League from possible collapse. The Cheetahs will step up from the Premier League under the control of Steve Purchase, a Swindon-based businessman. Dave Pavitt, who has promoted at Oxford for the past two seasons, is stepping down.

Purchase confirmed his takeover of the Sandy Lane club at the British Speedway Promoters' Association conference in Lanzarote last week. The withdrawal of Bradford and Peterborough's decision to drop down into the Premier League reduced the sport's top level to just eight clubs, raising questions over its feasibility for 1998.

However, the takeover at Oxford and their elevation to the Elite has saved the league, which was hailed as a success on the track in its first season this year. The financial strain of competing at the highest level persuaded most Premier League clubs to stay put, but Oxford has a track record in the sport's top division and the changes at Bradford and Peterborough mean plenty of riding talent is available.

The Cheetahs were the most successful speedway team in the Eighties, winning three first division titles. Peterborough's drop into the Premier League compensates the sport's lower level, which is also boosted by news of a new track entering the league.

A team is set to operate next season at a circuit that has not staged speedway since the mid-Sixties, with strong speculation pointing to a venue near Northampton, where Brafield last operated in 1967. Further good news for the Premier League came when Long Eaton announced that they were almost sure to be saved from closure. Their Station Road home is set to be bought by a consortium of Nottingham businessmen who want speedway, stock-car and greyhound racing to continue at the venue.

With the Isle of Wight moving up to the Premier League and Glasgow virtually certain not to compete next year, it leaves the second tier with 14 clubs, the same as in 1997. The Premier League has also placed a ban on new work permit applications from non-European Union riders to encourage development of young British talent.

☐ John Louis has resigned as England team manager. His decision was expected after discontent from some senior internationals last summer almost led to a strike.

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TENNIS

Sweden rise above crippling schedule with cup triumph

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN GOTHENBURG

THE abiding memory of the 1997 Davis Cup final, in which Sweden whitewashed the United States 5-0, is one of immense frustration. An enticing contest was fractured beyond repair when Pete Sampras, the United States' highest trump, limped out of the tie on Friday night. One may dismiss Sampras's injury as a cruel twist of fate, but the truth is more painful. He was the latest casualty in a political stand-off that is seriously undermining the sport.

Two weeks before this anticlimactic final, decided in Sweden's favour by Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti's 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 doubles victory against Todd Martin and Jonathan Stark on Saturday, the eight-man world championship was similarly compromised when Greg Rusedski and Sergi Bruguera withdrew halfway through the ATP Tour's annual showpiece. They were the lucky ones: Goran Ivanisevic and Richard Krajicek were injured in the final sprint for places.

Such an attritional schedule would prompt dismay in other sporting authorities. In tennis, the response has been to increase the workload. As two feuding factions jostle for player commitment, the sport's showcase events are coming apart at the seams.

This should have been a final to savour. Unusually for a tennis event, all three days in the Scandinavium were a sell-out as Sweden embraced the concept of team sport. Local journalists were adamant that a regular ATP Tour final involving Sampras and Bjorkman, Sweden's talisman, would never have filled the auditorium. Tennis, when played by individuals for their own gain, no longer generates sufficient public interest.

The Davis Cup should be of paramount importance to those responsible for the game's long-term health. The competition fills stadiums and attracts larger television audiences than tournaments staged by the ATP Tour, which has no influence over this competition. Yet the Tour's response to the demands of the Davis Cup is to clutter the weekly schedule with tournaments of huge financial benefit to the players but minimal interest to the public.

Consequently, the leading players, money-making machines par excellence, are too busy coining it to commit themselves to four Davis Cup ties annually. By relegating the public's interest in this competition below the level of their own, they are committing a grave disservice.

Even for the two matches yesterday, which were strictly of academic interest, the Scandivanium was packed with Swedes celebrating their country's success in a world event. They arrived with their drums and their horns, their whistles and their plastic rattles and with a spirit so infectious that the Sweden players joined in the Mexican waves during change-overs.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF), which runs the Davis Cup and the grand slams, is hardly blameless in making overbearing demands of players. In September, many players were enticed to the $6 million Grand Slam Cup in Munich immediately after some punishing Davis Cup assignments. Such grotesquely valuable tournaments no longer have a place in sport; their absurd purses serve only to alienate the public.

Those defending the demanding playing schedule point to Bjorkman's achievements this year as evidence to the contrary. Although Bjorkman has won more matches than Sampras has played, one does not celebrate an endurance test for the few who complete the course when the greater majority have fallen by the wayside.

Sampras maintained on Saturday that his strained calf muscle is the legacy of a season that unfolds over 11 punishing months. It is not so much the number of matches that he has played, but the time-span over which they are scheduled. Mindful of contemporaries such as Becker and Stich, who have recently retired before their 30th birthdays, Sampras wants to remain active beyond that.

Tom Gullikson, the United States captain, struck the right chord in the wake of his team's capitulation. "The [ITF's] grand-slam events are the sacred grandfathers of the game and the ATP Tour has its own agenda, so the Davis Cup gets the short end of the stick," he said. "In my book, the Davis Cup comes second to the grand slams and should be treated as such. Players should not be so dead tired when the final comes round. The season should be spread over ten months, maybe even nine."

Gullikson also made the most pertinent observation of the weekend, when he described the ITF and ATP as "the alphabets" of the game. The image conjured by his words was wholly appropriate: sheer weight of money threatens to reduce the game to the sad realms of boxing. The squabbling factions in tennis are in danger of letting the sport's soul slip away, unnoticed, into the night.

Results, page 41

Kulti commands the net while Bjorkman looks on during the doubles victory that secured the Davis Cup for Sweden

Aamir times his shot through the leg side for a boundary on his way to a half-century as Pakistan rally in Rawalpindi

West Indies let their chance slip

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN RAWALPINDI

PAKISTAN ended the second day of the second Test match against West Indies in a much healthier position than they began it. At stumps, they were 122 for two, 181 runs behind the touring team, but, on a slow pitch, they will expect to gain a decent first-innings lead and then hope that Mushtaq Ahmed can find some purchase for his leg spin as the pitch wears.

West Indies, on the other hand, will be disappointed with their total. Campbell and Chanderpaul did them proud with a fifth-wicket stand of 147, after the first four had gone for 58, but neither man went on to make the big score that the team was looking for. Campbell spread his 78 runs over 77 overs of dogged resistance and Chanderpaul was five short of a century when he was leg-before to Waqar.

Restored to the Pakistan team after being left out for no apparent reason at Peshawar, Waqar had taken the wickets of Stuart Williams and Lara on the first day. Lara was completely fooled by the ball Waqar has made his own, the inswinging yorker, and he departed feeling a little foolish, though not so foolish as Hooper, who nicked his third ball to the wicketkeeper.

Unusually, there were no wickets for Mushtaq, but there were four for Azhar Mahmood, the promising all-rounder, who made a century on his Test debut against South Africa two months ago. There were also two for Shoaib Akhtar, who, by being selected here, became Pakistan's 150th Test cricketer.

Chanderpaul deserved his hundred, but this is not the best of times for batsmen in the nineties. Blewett, of Australia, and Ganguly, of India, made 99 on the same day last week and now the little Trinidadian was obliged to drink from the cup of sorrow. He was hit on the back foot as he shuffled across his stumps when Waqar switched to bowling around the wicket.

Chanderpaul, 23, must wonder when he is going to cross the Rubicon: this is his 23rd Test and, although he has passed 50 on 15 occasions, he has only once gone on to make a century, against India earlier this year.

Were it not for David Williams, who contributed 48 doughty runs, West Indies would have been bowled out for fewer than 300. Once again, their batting frailties were apparent and David Lloyd, the England coach, saw enough to encourage him before England go to the Caribbean next month.

The lack of discipline extended to their bowling. Walsh, Ambrose and Bishop gifted Pakistan 13 runs in no-balls and wides. Even when their efforts were legitimate, they bowled too short too often and Rose, the fourth pace bowler, looked the pick of them. He had Ijaz caught at third man when the batsman attemped a familiar, lofted cut.

Ambrose had got Saeed by then, caught behind during an over that included four boundaries, but this is not a pitch on which to bang the ball in. Pakistan must now try to bat throughout the third day and build a sizeable lead against opponents whose ragged ground fielding indicated a loss of spirit.

Lara let Bishop down badly when he dropped Aamir on 38. Reprieved, Aamir completed his half-century in a composed mood that contrasted sharply with the way he had set off.

The shot of the day was his, a six off Bishop that deposited the ball into the crowd at square leg. Inzamam, batting within himself, settled for the morrow. If this partnership continues beyond lunchtime, West Indies will be worried.

Scoreboards, page 41

Fleming gambles after Horne century

STEPHEN FLEMING, the New Zealand captain, made an imaginative declaration to revive the possibility of a result in the rain-affected third Test against Australia at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart.

Fleming made his move towards the end of the fourth day, when New Zealand were 251 for six, 149 runs behind Australia's first innings total. By the close, Australia were 14 without loss, a lead of 163 with a minimum of 90 overs to be bowled on the final day.

A maiden Test century by Matthew Horne, who was only playing because Blair Pocock was injured, put New Zealand in the position to declare. Horne made 133 in 326 minutes, including nine fours and two sixes, before he was caught at mid-on by Matthew Elliott off Paul Reiffel.

The second Test between India and Sri Lanka in Nagpur was abandoned as a draw after rain prevented any play on the fifth day. Rain had washed away nearly 2½ days' play since Friday afternoon.

BASKETBALL

Bucknall's scoring power lifts England

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

SPAIN overcame a determined and fast-improving England 92-76 to take their expected place at the top of group C in the semi-final round of the European championships at the Plymouth Pavilion on Saturday.

Displaying all of Sir Francis Drake's spirit, much of his resolution but not, unfortunately, quite enough of his craft, England stayed in the game long enough to earn the plaudits of their coach, Laszlo Nemeth.

"The players gave a tremendous effort," he said. "We were not too inferior to a team that is a powerhouse in Europe."

Spain were fifth in the recent European champion finals and inevitably proved too strong for willing hosts who had struggled to overcome Denmark in Copenhagen three days previously.

Yet Spain could never completely subdue Steve Bucknall, who enjoyed the personal satisfaction of finishing as the game's top scorer with 23 points. Time and again in the first half, Bucknall powered his way towards the Spanish basket, only for fouls to halt his progress.

However, his fallibility at the free throw line let Spain off lightly. "They knew that Bucknall was the dangerman, which is why they paid him such special attention at all times," Nemeth said.

Bucknall's 12 successive points and two free throws from John Amaechi — second to Bucknall with 19 points — had kept England in the game until seven minutes from half-time, when they led 30-28. It was then that the third of five three-pointers from the outstanding Alberto Herreros precipitated a Spanish revival of nine successive points that was effectively the end of England.

Spain led 51-38 at the interval and later, when they were 22 points up, had more than enough in hand to withstand an England response of 16-6. The rally was sparked by the belated introduction of the 7ft 2in Ian Whyte, which gave England the height to match the Spaniards.

The service provided from the back court by Silas Cheung in only his second international was another source of encouragement for England.

"Spain were only better than us in little aspects," Nemeth said. "I passionately believe that England is a team that can take the biggest leap forward in Europe."

Nemeth would be prouder still if England can maintain the good work against Ukraine in Guildford on Wednesday.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

GOLF: BRITON EDGES OUT NORMAN'S BID FOR TITLE HAT-TRICK

Westwood confirms his maturity

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MELBOURNE

LEE WESTWOOD wants to be the world's No 1 golfer one day and he showed yesterday that it is no idle dream by outlasting Greg Norman, the present No 1, to win the Australian Open at the Metropolitan Club in Melbourne. When Norman, who was the defending champion, three-putted at the fourth extra hole of an enthralling tussle, he handed victory to the 24-year-old from Worksop.

It was a head-to-head battle all day, with the crowd, so keen to see Norman win the title for the third successive year — only Ossie Pickworth, from 1946-1948, has achieved the hat-trick — impressed by the personable Pom's persistence. Westwood, who played the last nine holes in one under par after a patchy outward half, picked up two shots in the last two holes when Norman, out of rhythm and sorts all week, tangled with trees at the 17th to run up a bogey five and three-putted the 18th for another bogey.

During a play-off so tense that Laurae Coltart, the fiancee of Westwood, could hardly contain herself, Norman faltered again at the treacherous 18th, three-putting for another bogey.

In the final round, Norman had returned a 73 and Westwood a 72 for a total of 274, 14 under par, one shot ahead of Craig Parry, the stocky Australian, who charged into the picture with a 65. Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, Westwood's future brother-in-law, who won the Australian PGA Championship the previous Sunday, finished sixth on 280 — a St Andrew's Day result less satisfactory than it might have been, because he dropped two shots in the course of the last three holes.

Victory salute: Westwood acknowledges the applause after his Australian Open win at the fourth extra hole

Norman denied that what happened in the Open here in 1979 had crossed his mind. Then 24, he three-putted the last to lose by a shot to Jack Newton, but won the first of his five home Opens the following year. Now 42, Norman said that he did not think winning becomes any easier the older he gets. "It's still nerve-racking, you're still trying to perform," he said.

And, of course, there are the youngsters hungry for success, ready to devour even the Great White Shark should he show any sign of weakness. Norman was impressed with Westwood, the Europe No 3, who has had a phenomenal run of three victories, a second and a 21st place in the past five weeks.

"I was impressed with Lee when I played with him at The Open Championship at Troon this year," Norman said. "He's strong. He hits a lot of good shots when he needs to and he goes at the ball very aggressively. He has the capabilities and the qualities to be in the top 10 in the world."

On a hot, dusty day when the duel in the sun between the world No 1 and a would-be No 1 fizzled rather than fizzed, it was Westwood's stickability that impressed most. Both players misfired, struggling to find a rhythm and hit a fairway in a breeze that made judgment awkward.

The first nine holes were particularly messy. "The way I played the front nine was pretty bad and, if anything, I let it go there," was Norman's assessment.

On Saturday, Norman had tried to strangle the championship with an opening charge of four birdies and an eagle in the first six holes. Only Westwood was there with him at the end of 54 holes, having hauled his way back into contention as Norman trod water — almost literally, for a torrential downpour caused play to be suspended briefly. Yesterday, they both drove badly at the 1st, but Norman saved par and Westwood bogeyed, to drop two behind.

The Englishman drove into a bunker at the 5th and failed to get out of the sand with his second shot. "He's gone," people muttered, while Laurae held her head. However, her man rescued his five, a bogey, while Norman wound up with a double-bogey six and even Laurae had to laugh when a youth described the two players as "rabbits". "I've never heard Lee called that before," she said.

Norman birdied the three par fives on the front nine, but still went out in 38, one over. Westwood, also out in 38, lost ground when Norman had a birdie two at the 11th, but the real drama was yet to come.

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself. FE FOCUS

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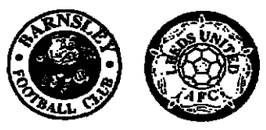
FOOTBALL

New dawn fades as Leeds grow stronger



BARNSLEY 2
LEEDS UNITED 3

By Keith Pike

THE weather was more Rotherham than Rio, the setting a mite less imposing than the Maracana, but, as the rain lashed Yorkshire on Saturday and Leeds United were being submerged by a torrent of attacks, it *was* just like watching Brazil for those buoyant, fantasising Barnsley supporters swaying to a Samba beat in the sodden stands at Oakwell.

Fantasy? Not in the eighth minute, when Barnsley broke the length of the field to take the lead with a goal that cried out for Cliff Morgan's commentary. A clearing header under impossible pressure ... *Brilliant!* A swivel by Redfearn to unleash the perfect defence-splitting pass ... *Brilliant!* A 40-yard dash by Liddell and a shot that Martyn somehow parried ... *Brilliant!* and a goal from Liddell on the rebound ... *What a score!*

Fantasy? Not in the 29th minute either, when the advantage was deservedly doubled. Bullock made the incision in the Leeds defence. Redfearn let fly with a shot too hot — or too slippery — for Martyn to hold and Ward lashed the loose ball home. Brilliant? Er, no, not really, but the euphoria was real enough: the quality of Barnsley's play unmistakeable.

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And then? A large, painful dose of reality: 30 minutes of Brazil followed by a short spell of Brentford and a second half distinctly Brighton in its back-pedalling desperation. Initially out-played, subsequently outstanding, Leeds turned the match on its head and Barnsley were left to contemplate *the likelihood that that victory at* Anfield seven days earlier was precisely the false dawn that the cognoscenti had feared.

Not that Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, was unduly morose, nor that the supporters ever threatened to turn on their heroes. When your team has regularly been thrashed to within a goal *of its dignity, it is no disgrace to go* down to a side boasting the best form in the FA Carling Premiership. Wilson drew enough encouragement from that breathtaking opening salvo to believe that Barnsley are not a lost cause.

"It was disappointing, sure, but we are not down," Wilson said. "We'll get back to the drawing board, put a smile on our faces and come out again next week down the road at Hillsborough." You could almost hear him thinking: *"Another derby, another team in its* best form of the season. Oh, joy!"

It will, indeed, take more than stoicism and fervour to keep this team up. For all the fluency of their opening burst, Barnsley had, in Wilson's words, failed "to do the dirty things" as well as the beautiful and he did not mean the predictably frantic tackling that saw Mike Reed, the referee, flourish his yellow card on no fewer than nine occasions (Leeds won that particular contest too, 6-3).

Wilson had in mind the basic requirements of marking, the lack of which allowed Haaland a free header to spark Leeds's response in the 34th minute; of decisiveness, absent when De Zeeuw permitted Martyn's huge punt to set up Wallace for the 79th-minute equaliser; of ruthlessness, missing when Wallace skated past Markstedt to cross for Lilley to win the match at the near post four minutes later. Barnsley tired too early, while their opponents merely grew stronger.

Would Leeds have retained the stomach for the fight had Liddell's header made it 3-1 in the 57th *minute instead of being cleared off* the line by Robertson? Who knows. What is not in doubt is that George Graham's side have now won four in a row, the past three times from behind, and, while they lack the flair of Manchester United, Chelsea and — horror of horrors — Arsenal, their resilience and powers of organisation are second to none and they cannot be written off as championship pretenders.

BARNSLEY (4-4-2): L Leese — N Eaden, A de Zeeuw, P Markstedt, D Barnard — M Bullock (sub: M Appleby, 80min), J Bosancic (sub: A Moses, 72), E Tinkler, N Redfearn — A Ward, A Liddell (sub: G Hristov, 87).
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle (sub: A Maybury, 46), D Wetherall, L Radebe, D Robertson — G Kelly, A I Haaland (sub: R Molenaar, 68), L Bowyer (sub: D Lilley, 78), B Ribeiro — R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink.
Referee: M Reed

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT

Ginola, who was the catalyst for Tottenham's second-half revival, celebrates his goal against Everton at Goodison Park

Fans jeer Johnson as crisis deepens

EVERTON 0
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 2

By David Maddock

HIS pale features fixed firmly downwards, Peter Johnson stepped tentatively from the tunnel at Goodison Park. He was heading across the pitch, away from the sound of supporters still demonstrating in the street.

The plan was for the Everton chairman to escape through a back entrance, avoiding the anger of about 500 diehards who braved the evening drizzle to express their desperation. He could not, though, avoid all confrontation.

As Johnson carefully picked his way through the field of mud that Goodison had become after a heavy downpour, a disaffected groundsman waved his pitchfork violently in the direction of the chairman — and the burly minders surrounding him — screaming at them to get off his pitch *with such an intensity that a* punch-up almost broke out.

It was a moment that encapsulated Johnson's lonely position at the helm of a club that remains rooted at the foot of the FA Carling Premiership. Defeat — and a quite desperate one at that — to a Tottenham Hotspur side in almost as much trouble induced a sit-in by thousands of supporters, followed by that more aggressive abuse in the street afterwards.

The taunts were cruel. "Where's the money gone?" they sang. Then: "We want Johnson out." Claims that the chairman sees Everton only as a way to make money have been accentuated by the purchase only of journeymen since Howard Kendall took charge as manager in the summer.

Yet Johnson denies the supporters' allegations, maintaining *that he is committed to the* Everton cause and that there is plenty of money to spend. His voice wavering with emotion at times, he said: "I won't walk away. Someone has got to sit here and make sure Everton get out of a difficult situation. We can't be left rudderless. There are people outside screaming 'Johnson out' as I speak, but someone has got to do the job. We are always talking about money. Nobody seems to ask any other chairmen if there is money to spend, but once Howard identifies a player he wants, we will do our best to buy him. There is money, but we have got to buy the right type of player. Of course we want world-class players; we tried to buy them in the summer when we went for Ince, Ferdinand and Ravanelli, but it's not that easy."

There is much work to be done *if the supporters are to be* appeased. Johnson and Kendall spoke of the difficulty of attracting "big-name" players, because — in the words of the manager — "what has happened at this club in recent years has made it difficult to attract the right type of players".

Tottenham have no such difficulty, yet they too have all the distress signs of a side that fears relegation. Indeed, Everton were the better side for much of the first half, hitting the crossbar through Barmby and having a Ferguson header cleared off the line.

But, as the game progressed, Spurs rediscovered a confidence that was not so much low as non-existent when the match started. It was as if a light was turned on just after the interval. David Ginola was the catalyst.

He started the move on 72 minutes that saw Fox cleverly flick a Sinton cross into the path of the loitering Ramon Vega, for the Swiss to head firmly past Southall from close range. Four minutes later and the match was over as Ginola ran almost from halfway, leaving Ward in his wake, *before crashing a shot into* the roof of the net.

EVERTON (5-3-2): N Southall — M Ward, C Short (sub: D Cadamarteri, 74min), S Ellis, C Tiler, T Phelan (sub: A Hinchcliffe, 71) — D Williamson, G Farrelly (sub: J Oster, 65), G Speed — N Barmby, D Ferguson.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, R Vega, S Campbell (sub: J Scales, 44), C Wilson — R Fox, A Nielsen (sub: D Anderton, 58), C Calderwood, A Sinton — L Ferdinand (sub: S Iversen, 78), D Ginola.
Referee: P Jones.

Failings of Holdsworth obscured by star quality

BOLTON WANDERERS 1
WIMBLEDON 0

By Mark Hodkinson

ARMS around one another, all smiles and winks, the double act of Holdsworth and Blake accepted the plaudits without a trace of coyness as they left the pitch at the Reebok Stadium.

Star quality is hard to define, but it embraces a surfeit of audacity and Dean Holdsworth has enough to stock a market stall or two. The pair bundled their way through the match, and while Noel Blake was at least a bulky nuisance, Holdsworth was purely comic value. His control was appalling, his movements limited and, on a rare occasion when he attempted a tackle, he almost vaulted clear over Ceri Hughes.

Both sides played a 4-4-2 formation and it produced a repetitive, formulaic game chiselled out on a narrow track with a dearth of wing play. Inspiration was at a premium, though players like Blackwell and Perry, for Wimbledon, and Todd and Sellars, for Bolton, excelled in the staleness of the stalemate.

In true showbiz style, Holdsworth waited until the final curtain before sprinkling gold dust on to the tedium. His brain was two thoughts ahead of the rest when he spotted Sellars on a run into the penalty area. He backheeled it into his path and, when the shot was parried by Sullivan, both Holdsworth and Blake, the sense of glory in their nostrils, charged at the ball. Blake scored, but Holdsworth celebrated profusely, slumped to his knees, punching the air and singing to the fans.

At the final whistle, Holdsworth continued his effusive gestures, skipping among his team-mates, stopping only to adjust his hair and *wipe any excess gel on to his shirt.* Anyone who had witnessed the celebration but missed the match would surmise that this was a player who had regularly dribbled past four opponents, tackled like a demon, played expansive crossfield passes and still had the energy to serve the pies at half-time. No, it was a two-yard backheel, but a backheel that, of 22 players on the field, only Holdsworth had the quickness of thought to devise and deliver. A star indeed.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergsson, A Todd, M Fish, M Whitlow — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 75min), S Sellars — D Holdsworth, N Blake.
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher — N Ardley, V Jones, M Hughes, C Hughes — C Cort, M Gayle.
Referee: J Winter.

Coppell left to chase first home win

CRYSTAL PALACE 1
NEWCASTLE UNITED 2

By Brian Glanville

BACK to earth with a bump for Crystal Palace. After their victory at Tottenham Hotspur last Monday, this was yet another failure to win their first FA Carling Premiership match at Selhurst Park. All they can do, their manager, Steve Coppell, said despairingly, is "try, try and try".

An early injury to the Palace striker, Bruce Dyer, had something to do with this defeat. The performance of Newcastle's Georgia attacker, Temuri Ketsbaia, which Coppell generously described as "superb", had more to do with it still. Ketsbaia scored Newcastle's first goal at a *delicate psychological moment, just be*fore half-time, and set up the second for Tomasson.

"Mobility, good vision, doesn't give the ball away, good spring," Coppell said. Dynamic to a degree, Ketsbaia was in almost perpetual motion, ever eager to beat his man, never giving up, spreading the ball with skill.

Dyer was hurt when Pistone, the Newcastle left back, crashed into him near the corner flag in a seemingly illegal challenge that led to Pistone being booed by the home supporters for the rest of the game. No foul was given, let alone a yellow card.

The return on the right wing of Gillespie, suspended in Newcastle's midweek game in Barcelona, gave better balance to the team, though there is still no sign of a return of Tino Asprilla. Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, said that his stomach operation had been wholly successful, but a leg muscle was still painful.

Dalglish, needless to say, was very happy; he even smiled. He said of his players: "They really put themselves in there and showed the resolve to get the result. I think they deserved what they got. They passed and moved it very well at times. We couldn't have asked for more."

Palace, who live on their opponents' energies, had other injuries to contend with. Michele Padovano, their expensive new Italian forward, who hurt a thigh at Tottenham, retired this time with an ankle injury, while Coppell admitted that Andy Roberts, who had a painkilling injection beforehand, should not have played at all.

He had to go off, too, though the arrival of the Israel international, Itzhak Zohar, who has been burning to play, gave Palace fresh alternatives. Coppell calls him the best passer in the club, adding somewhat significantly: "He has to ally this with the basic fundamentals of English football."

Zohar it was who engineered the consolatory Palace goal, midway through the second half. Moving first left, then right, he used his stronger right foot to lay the ball off to Neil Shipperley, the striker, whose thundering low shot found the left-hand corner. However, it was not enough.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-4-3): K Miller — A Linighan, P Warhurst, H Hreidarsson — M Edworthy, A Roberts (sub: I Zohar, 47min), S Rodger, D Gordon — B Dyer (sub: J Smith, 16), M Padovano (sub: N Emblen, 54), N Shipperley.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, S Pearce, A Pistone — K Gillespie, J D Tomasson, D Batty, D Hamilton — J Barnes (sub: R Lee, 64), T Ketsbaia.
Referee: M Riley

Hartson reaps rewards for tenacity

WEST HAM UNITED 2
ASTON VILLA 1

By Ivo Tennant

LAST season, he was regarded as too expensive. Now he is a snip. Such is the whirligig of modern football for John Hartson, the leading scorer in the FA Carling Premiership. His two goals against Aston Villa were achieved through the sheer persistence and exemplary opportunism that will never again be underestimated by any manager whom he plays for or against.

Indeed, the hyperbole poured forth from Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager. "John is awesome, frightening, good in the air, good feet, a smashing lad, does not realise how good he is ..." he said before his voice tailed away.

Hartson has scored 16 goals in all competitions this season and is clearly worth considerably more than the £3.3 million he cost from Arsenal. As well as the attributes mentioned by Redknapp, he can ride tackles and has the requisite determination to be a top-class forward. He is unconcerned by whom he is partnered.

On Saturday, when Kitson was deemed to be not fully fit, Samassi Abou, from the Ivory Coast, made his second full league appearance alongside him. Still the chances kept coming, mostly set up by Berkovic. "We create so many opportunities at this club," Hartson said. "We are scoring in virtually every match."

The aggression that Hartson regards as an essential component of the modern-day striker led to a booking and, had a wild sliding tackle not been telegraphed and avoided by his opponent, he might have been sent off, yet his surge into the penalty area for his first goal was accomplished through sheer strength of character. His second, a shot from 20 yards, took a slight deflection.

If only Collymore had half the gumption that Hartson possesses. It is said that when a player leaves Liverpool, his game will only regress — and there are any number of examples. One incident in the second half bore out the truth of this.

Villa, for all the hard work of Yorke and an excellent goal that he did much to create himself, were in arrears when Collymore was provided with what was unquestionably the best chance of the match. When a cross from Milosevic fell invitingly before his right foot, he was unmarked and only a few yards from goal. Here, seemingly, was the equaliser.

Alas, Collymore scuffed his kick to the extent that the ball bobbled harmlessly away from the target. It would be churlish to read too much into a single shot, but the statistics of the season tell a stark story. One goal is far from sufficient for a forward of such ability: that much is obvious. The remedy is less apparent.

His manager puts it down to a lack of confidence. Brian Little would not condemn. "We are not playing as well in the Premiership as in Europe," he said. "I cannot offer any excuses."

WEST HAM UNITED (1-4-3-2): L Miklosko — R Ferdinand — T Breacker, I Pearce, D Unsworth, K Rowland — S Lomas, E Berkovic, S Potts — S Abou (sub: P Alves, 69min), J Hartson.
ASTON VILLA (4-3-1-2): M Oakes — G Charles, S Staunton, U Ehiogu, R Scimeca (sub: S Grayson, 45) — F Nelson, M Draper, A Wright — D Yorke — S Collymore, S Milosevic.
Referee: P Alcock.

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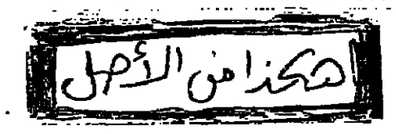

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Liverpool victory increases anxiety at Arsenal as title challenge fades further

McManaman lightens the darkness

ARSENAL 0
LIVERPOOL 1

By Rob Hughes

STEVE McMANAMAN scored a goal classic in its simplicity and wonderful to behold to rise above the anaemic display of both Arsenal and Liverpool at Highbury yesterday. If it did anything, given the news of Manchester United's rampant form, it suggested that Arsenal, growing older and less imaginative by the week, will be Old Spice by Christmas in the championship stakes.

Woeful is the Arsenal form at the moment. This fixture has yielded but a single goal on each of the past five meetings; Arsenal's guns had been muzzled in all but one of them. Yet McManaman's strike, in the 56th minute, transcended the mediocrity of all around him.

He wears the captain's armband, so he is reluctant to take the credit, preferring afterwards to talk of "the hard work the lads are putting in, I couldn't fault them for commitment". He couldn't fault them? What is he, player or coach or chairman?

The answer seemed emphatic with that sublime goal. It emanated from a corner out on the left. McManaman, a yard quicker than Dixon to respond, allowed the ball to pass over his right shoulder, turned and, with apparently laconic ease, used his right foot to loft the ball up from an angle 20 yards out.

Seaman, the England goalkeeper, was caught unprepared, but, even had he been in the centre of his goal, he might not have stopped the ball as it dipped below the bar and inside the far post.

How can we complain? Easily, for we are looking for teams capable of at least pushing Manchester United, teams other than the sporadically brilliant Chelsea. Such sides were in hiding here, as dark clouds rolled over Highbury and as Anno Domini tugged at the side so expensively refurbished by Arsène Wenger. He has not cured the habit of collecting yellow cards — another three came yesterday for Dixon, Adams and Keown.

Without Vieira, the long-striding midfield enforcer, and without the injured, energetic Parlour, the Arsenal midfield lacked touch and imagination. Bergkamp was welcomed home after a five-match ban, but the talisman had said himself that he would need time to get into the rhythm and pace of FA Carling Premiership football.

Without his invention, Arsenal were unyielding, unadventurous, and well matched by Liverpool throughout. Overmars, the only natural winger on the field, seemed reluctant to take men on down the flanks and so we had the inevitable congestion in midfield.

Wright? What can we say? Since his counselling to suppress the errant devil, he appears a shadow of his match-winning former self. Six games now have passed, the hunger, the ebullience are worn, the goal threat seems a memory.

Arsenal fans are incensed, believing that they see lack of effort where it may simply be inhibition of confidence — a player trying too hard to calm his hot temper and thus dampening the very thing that made him so coveted.

At the other extreme is Michael Owen, a teenager thrust in ahead of his time, buffeted often illegally by Adams and Keown — each of whom was booked for their rough treatment of him — yet a young player determined, tenacious, so very brave that he obliged Seaman in the second half to be just as courageous. Seaman, as ever Arsenal's most dependable spirit, anticipated the danger superbly and came out to win the ball with his legs.

But this was rare excitement. Bergkamp, so sublime when he is on his level, was easily policed. Adams, though the way he was outfoxed on a couple of occasions by Owen is worrying for England, reacted by playing the centre forward at the finish — a centre forward who could not rouse the troops.

Yet it was to Adams that Arsenal's most probable opportunity fell. Bergkamp had stroked in a free kick, Keown had headed the ball onwards and Adams, at the far post, was in yards of space. Alas, in keeping with an unbalanced Arsenal day, he lunged awkwardly towards the ball, heading it across the gaping net ... it bounced beyond the far post, where Hughes, struggling to read the pace of it, stretched but could only return it into the side netting.

Thank heavens, then, for McManaman. Putting the armband on him made him even more hyperactive, appearing here, there and everywhere, trying to inspire his team. Ultimately, he did it with an opportunist strike of his own, did it alone and then modestly thanked his mates.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Adams, N Winterburn — M Overmars, D Platt, E Petit (sub: G Grimandi, 80min), S Hughes (sub: C Wreh, 65) — I Wright, D Bergkamp.
LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — J McAteer, B Kvarme, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye — S McManaman, J Redknapp, J Carragher, O Leonhardsen — K Riedle, M Owen (sub: D Murphy, 88).
Referee: G Poll.

STU FORSTER / ALLSPORT

McManaman, the Liverpool captain and goalscorer, attempts to evade Wright's sliding tackle in the Premiership meeting with Arsenal at Highbury yesterday

BOLTON WANDERERS
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 8.0

David Maddock

It might have been interesting — the meeting of Peter Beardsley and Newcastle United, his former club. The differences between the player and Kenny Dalglish, twice his former manager and twice the man who snubbed him, make for an interesting rivalry.

Unfortunately, it appears that Beardsley also has his differences with Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, and the forward is unlikely to play. He may never play for Bolton again, for that matter.

The problem lies with comments attributed to Beardsley after a reserve team outing last week. The veteran, when asked why he was playing in an apparently meaningless contest, said: "I've no idea, you'd better ask the manager."

That did not go down well with Todd, who, only a week before, had refused to allow Beardsley to play in a reserve match when the player asked to do so, because he thought his reputation was too great. Privatley, Todd said that he only played Beardsley because the forward was so keen. Now the rift seems irreparable and a swift departure, barely two months after Beardsley arrived, seems inevitable.

With both sides winning at the weekend, unchanged sides are likely, late injury reaction always excepting, of course.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable: 4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergsson, A Todd, M Fish, M Whitlow — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars — D Holdsworth, N Blake.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable, 4-4-1-1) S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, A Pistone, S Pearce — K Gillespie, D Batty, R Lee, T Ketsbaia — J D Tomasson — J Barnes.
Referee: N Barry

■ TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm.
■ PREDICTION: Yet another draw at the Reebok Stadium.

Coventry prepare to take punishment

COVENTRY CITY 0
LEICESTER CITY 2

By Russell Kempson

STRATFORD Town, the financially challenged Alliance Interlink club, were looking forward to their Birmingham Senior Cup second-round tie against Coventry City tomorrow night. John Clarke and Tony Hudson, the Stratford joint-managers, are lifelong Coventry supporters and were hoping for a "bumper" crowd. Masons Road was alive with expectation.

"A gate of more than 500 and a win for Stratford would make it a perfect evening," Clarke said. "We accept that perhaps the tie is not among City's highest priorities, but we know that they will not be coming here to lie down."

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, was also upbeat. "We'll put out a youngish side and it'll be a good exercise for them," he said. "I may even give myself a game; I haven't played too many times this season and may fancy a run-out."

So it was before 3pm at Highfield Road on Saturday, when Coventry took on Leicester City in the FA Carling Premiership. Country cousins preparing to welcome city slickers: an event when everyone's a winner. Not any more, though, not after a pathetic Coventry display that plumbed the depths.

By 4.45pm, Strachan was already pencilling in at least seven or eight candidates for an unexpected trip to Masons Road. Stratford might have to forget about receiving a batch of promising young 'uns, more a bunch of highly-paid professionals turning up to eat large slices of humble pie.

"That was possibly the worst performance, individually and collectively, since I became the manager," Strachan said. "It was not worth the admission fee, it was not worth any fee at all. We were disappointing all over the pitch, everywhere."

In mitigation, Coventry is not the best place to be sent to at present. Alex Miller, Strachan's influential assistant, and Roger Spry, the fitness coach, have departed. David Burrows, the left-back, is apparently on his way to Sheffield Wednesday, much to Strachan's chagrin, and was left out of the side. Gary McAllister, the captain, injured a knee and had to depart on a stretcher after 38 minutes.

When added to Coventry's miserable sequence of one victory in ten attempts in the Premiership, it was not difficult to work out why Strachan's normal bubbly self had disappeared by the time he attended the post-match inquest.

Leicester only needed to be above average, which they were, to succeed, which they did with ease. Fenton clipped in the first goal after 32 minutes, capitalising on Walsh's shot against a post, and Elliott's thunderous 75th-minute penalty, after Shaw had carelessly bowled over Izzet, concluded an essentially inelegant scrap. Stratford Town may get more than they bargained for tomorrow night.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, M Hall — P Telfer, G McAllister (sub: T E Soltvedt, 38min), P Williams, W Boland (sub: S Haworth, 77) — D Huckerby, D Dublin.
LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, R Savage, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — I Marshall, G Fenton.
Referee: M Bodenham.

Zola strides back to his best

CHELSEA 4
DERBY COUNTY 0

By Matt Dickinson

THE happy feet are back and so, at last, is the impish grin that does not so much light up rooms as spread infectiously across whole grounds. Gianfranco Zola is himself again.

Of the high-profile horde of foreigners to have invaded the FA Carling Premiership in recent seasons, only Juninho can have come close to inspiring such genuine and widespread affection as the little Italian. Eric Cantona was too arrogant, Dennis Bergkamp too aloof. Zola charms all he meets.

As he destroyed Derby County with finishes of every type — long-range shot, scrambled finish and devastating burst — it was hard to remember when he had ever missed. Not until it came from the horse's mouth did anyone believe that this was the first hat-trick of his career.

"I have to thank Ruud Gullit," he said. "Sometimes I was not playing as well as I could, but the manager said to me 'don't worry, it is important for the team that you just do your job even if you don't score'. That gave me confidence, tranquility, or, how you say, serenity."

It is a quality that Gullit has in abundance and who can blame him after a performance that may — and still just may — have shown that Chelsea can threaten Manchester United's pre-eminence in the Premiership.

That is dependent, however, on them suffering no significant injuries. They certainly cannot afford to lose Michael Duberry again, his intimidating bulk an essential contrast to complement Frank Leboeuf's composed distribution.

The biggest question mark probably still hangs over Ed de Goey, the Dutchman, who has yet to prove — despite eight clean sheets in 16 Premiership games — that he is the top-class goalkeeper essential for championship teams.

On Saturday, it was impossible to judge. He barely dirtied his knees, faced, as he was, by a Derby team whose performance was as bad as has been seen in the Premiership this season.

The defence, for whom Igor Stimac cannot return soon enough, has yielded four goals in each of its last three Premiership away games. They were not helped on Saturday, though, by the fact that they had no sooner cleared the ball than it came hurtling back. Paulo Wanchope may be a magician on occasions, but at Stamford Bridge he simply disappeared.

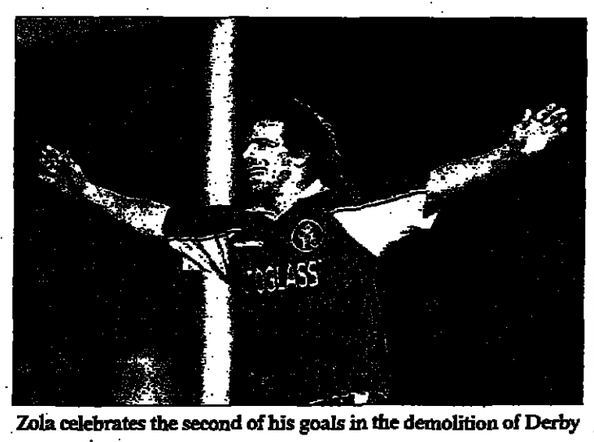
Stefano Eranio, too, should have been included in the attendance figure rather than the teamsheet as he watched the game pass him by; only Lee Carsley was entirely exempt from criticism, at least trying to stop the endless waves of Chelsea attacks.

For Chelsea, Mark Hughes — at the age of 34 — just gets better and better. No other player in the country would have scored his goal after 34 minutes, throwing his bulk into an acrobatic volley. But he was booked again and now misses three matches.

Zola scored his first after 11 minutes with a low shot from the edge of the penalty box. If the second was an untidy scramble, Zola's last was as good as any you will see this season. Made in Italy, his ingenious back-heel to Di Matteo was returned as he burst through on goal and he calmly slid the ball under Poom. "It is good to hear people behind you screaming 'sexy football'," Gullit said. "We played a perfect game."

Zola agreed. "It was perfect," he said. Of course, he said it with a smile.

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, C Babayaro — D Petrescu, D Wise, R Di Matteo, G Le Saux — G Zola (sub: N Crittenden, 88min), M Hughes (sub: T A Flo, 77).
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): M Poom — G Rowett, D Yates (sub: D Powell, 75), C Daily — R Kozluk, S Eranio, L Carsley, C Powell (sub: J Hunt, 75) — F Baiano — P Wanchope (sub: D Burton, 63), D Sturridge.
Referee: U Rennie.



Zola celebrates the second of his goals in the demolition of Derby

Di Canio prolongs honeymoon period

SOUTHAMPTON 2
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 3

By Peter Robinson

PICTURE the scene. It is a Monday morning and the playing staff of Sheffield Wednesday are sitting around, waiting to meet their new manager. They are apprehensive, not quite sure what to expect. In strides Big Ron. "Hello lads, you OK? Right, here we go then ..."

That was a couple of weeks ago and, as you might expect, he made quite an impression. Actually, more than quite. "The first time Ron came into the dressing-room, he gave us each so much attention. There was a different attitude." This is Paulo di Canio talking. "The players respect him and he respects us. He speaks to the team, he is good at communicating.

"He has charisma, he has presence, he speaks the players' language and, when he talks, it makes good sense. He brings the best out of you. He is a motivator. He is like an Italian manager." Di Canio, Sheffield Wednesday forward and, clearly, Atkinson fan.

Statements like those are indicative of the change that has come over Wednesday since Big Ron returned to Hillsborough. Gone is the gloom that shrouded the last days of David Pleat's managerial reign, the uncertainty that developed as he and his players waited for the inevitable sacking. In its place is the trademark Atkinson sunny smile. It may be a honeymoon period, but Wednesday don't care. For now, football is fun again and their luck has changed.

Take Saturday, for example. They should have lost. Having taken the lead in the first half, Atherton completing a slick corner kick routine, they fell 2-1 behind as Southampton ran riot after half-time. They hit the post, the crossbar, should have had a penalty, missed a succession of sitters and scored twice, first from a venomous Hirst drive and then an astonishing strike by Palmer, reaching Dodd's peach of a pass and, without breaking stride, looping a shot inside the far post from an improbable angle.

Then Di Canio picked the ball up in midfield and, after a brief run, beat the Southampton offside trap with a sweet pass that gave Collins, four minutes after coming on as a substitute, a chance that he duly took. With six minutes left, Carbone, another sub, swung a pass towards his Italian countryman. Benali teed it up and Di Canio danced past Jones, the goalkeeper. "Shoot, pass, do something," the Wednesday bench bellowed. Di Canio dribbled round Jones again instead, then Benali, then scored. Arrogant stuff — and Atkinson loved it.

Indeed, he appeared to love every minute of Saturday, only once appearing to be slightly lost for words. "Do you have the Midas touch, Ron?" he was asked. Well, it was a stupid question. Of course he does.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — C Palmer, K Richardson (sub: S Basham, 88min), M Oakley — M Le Tissier — K Davies, D Hirst (sub: E Ostenstrad, 83)
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2) K Pressman — I Nolan, J Newsome, D Walker, M Pembridge — G Whitingham, J Magilton (sub: W Collins, 64), P Atherton, P Rudi — P di Canio, A Booth (sub: B Carbone, 76).
Referee: S Dunn.

Simeone boosts Internazionale lead

INTERNAZIONALE increased their lead at the top of Serie A to five points yesterday after Diego Simeone, the Argentina midfield player, scored twice and Ronaldo, the Brazil striker, once in a 3-1 win at Vicenza.

Simeone struck twice in the space of five minutes midway through the first half. Ambrosini, of Vicenza, had a goal ruled offside in the eighth minute and, seven minutes later, Di Carlo hit a post from the penalty spot after Schenardi was brought down. Ambrosini pulled a goal back in the 58th minute, but ten minutes later Ronaldo escaped the shackles of the Vicenza defence and sent a fierce shot past goalkeeper, Brivio.

ASRoma overtook Parma in third place after beating them 2-0 away, while Jürgen Klinsmann scored his first league goal of the season with a 75th-minute equaliser as Sampdoria came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Bologna. Giovanni Galeone, the new coach of Napoli, saw his side end a run of six defeats with a 1-1 draw against Fiorentina.

The winners of this season's Coca-Cola Cup may be rewarded with a place in Europe. The surprise news comes as the Football League has stepped up its battle to retain a place in the Uefa Cup for the winners of the tournament.

The League's fight has been boosted by Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, who has written to Uefa, European football's governing body, strongly urging it to restore the place. David Sheepshanks, the League chairman, has met senior Uefa officials to discuss the case and Uefa will now discuss the matter when it holds an executive meeting later this week.

Manchester United have agreed to re-arrange their FA Carling Premiership match at Aston Villa to avoid a clash with possible commitments in Europe. Villa were due to entertain United on Monday, April 13, but the game has now been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 18. The original date for the game was in the same week as the semi-finals of the European Cup and the Uefa Cup — matches in which both clubs hope to be involved.

Venables to be wooed by many suitors

By Russell Kempson

TERRY VENABLES may have failed to guide Australia into the World Cup finals, but there will be no shortage of offers of future employment for the former England manager. His 18-month contract with Soccer Australia, the country's governing body, does not expire until the middle of next year, but it is unlikely that he will see it out.

Australia fell at the final qualifying hurdle in Melbourne on Saturday, drawing 2-2 with Iran but being eliminated on the away goals rule after a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Tehran. "I don't think I have ever experienced such a cruel result as this," Venables said. "The players are devastated and so am I."

Venables was immediately offered a new contract by David Hill, the Soccer Australia chairman, but he will spend the next few days thinking it over.

Venables, 54, has led Australia to an unbeaten sequence of 12 wins and two draws and will possibly stay on for the Confederation Cup tournament in the Middle East later this month. By then, though, the suitors will have formed a not so orderly queue.

Rangers could lead the chase, with Walter Smith, their manager, having already confirmed that he will retire at the end of the season. Merseyside may appeal, too, with Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, in the most precarious of positions. Speculation also continues that Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, will be persuaded to stand down in May if his side fails to win a trophy.

There will be plenty of interest from abroad, but Venables still hankers for a domestic league title. "I would like to win a championship," he said. "It's not an obsession, but it could become one."

He could perhaps settle for a Nationwide League first division championship. Ray Harford, the West Bromwich Albion manager, steadfastly refuses to sign his contract at The Hawthorns and Queens Park Rangers have yet to replace Stewart Houston. Venables, the Portsmouth chairman, could even dismiss Steve Fenwick, his manager and long-time friend, and take over team affairs at Fratton Park.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

BARNSLEY (2) 2 **LEEDS** (1) 3
Liddell 8; Ward 28. 18,690
Haaland 35, Wallace 79, Lilley 82

Barnsley: L Leese, M Eaden, A de Zeeuw, N Redfearn, A Liddell (sub: G Hristov, 85min), M Bullock (sub: M Appleby, 79min), J Bosancic (sub: A Moses, 72min), E Tinkler, D Barnard, A Ward, P Markstedt.

Booked: Bosancic, Ward, Moses.

Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, D Robertson, A I Haaland (sub: R Molenaar, 69min), L Radebe, D Wetherall, R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink, B Ribeiro, L Bowyer (sub: D Lilley, 77min), G Halle (sub: A Maybury, 45min).

Booked: Halle, Radebe, Haaland, Maybury, Wallace, Robertson.

Referee: M Reed.

BOLTON (0) 1 **WIMBLEDON** (0) 0
Blake 89. 22,703

Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, P Frandsen, J Pollock, S Sellars, N Blake, A Thompson (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 75min), G Bergsson, A Todd, M Fish, M Whitlow, D Holdsworth.

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, V Jones, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, C Hughes, M Gayle, C Perry, M Hughes, N Ardley, C Cort.

Booked: Perry.

Referee: J Winter.

CHELSEA (2) 4 **DERBY** (0) 0
Zola 12, 66, 77; Hughes 35. 34,544

Chelsea: E de Goey, D Petrescu, C Babayaro, F Leboeuf, M Hughes (sub: T A Flo, 79min), D Wise, M Duberry, G Le Saux, R di Matteo, F Sinclair, G Zola (sub: N Crittenden, 86min).

Booked: Sinclair, Hughes, Di Matteo.

Derby County: M Poom, G Rowett, C Powell, D Yates (sub: D Powell, 77min), D Sturridge, P Wanchope (sub: D Burton, 62min), L Carsley, S Eranio, C Dailly, R Kozluk, F Baiano (sub: J Hunt, 77min).

Booked: Sturridge, Carsley, D Powell.

Referee: U Rennie.

COVENTRY (0) 0 **LEICESTER** (1) 2
18,309
Fenton 32, Elliott 75 (pen)

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, P Williams, G Breen, D Huckerby, D Dublin, G McAllister (sub: T E Soltvedt, 38min), P Telfer, M Hall, W Boland (sub: S Haworth, 77min), R Nilsson.

Booked: Shaw, Williams.

Leicester City: K Keller, P Kaamark, S Guppy, S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh, M Izzet, N Lennon, R Savage, I Marshall, G Fenton.

Booked: Keller. Referee: M Bodenham.

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 1 **NEWCASTLE** (1) 2
Shipperley 67. 26,085
Ketsbaia 45, Tomasson 63

Crystal Palace: K Miller, M Edworthy, D Gordon, A Roberts (sub: I Zohar, 46min), A Linighan, P Warhurst, N Shipperley, B Dyer (sub: J Smith, 15min), M Padovano (sub: N Emblen, 57min), S Rodger, H Hreidarsson. Booked: Warhurst.

Newcastle United: S Hislop, D Batty, D Peacock, J Barnes (sub: R Lee, 64min), S Pearce, T Ketsbaia, J D Tomasson, K Gillespie, S Watson, D Hamilton, A Pistone.

Booked: Batty, Peacock, Lee. Referee: M Riley.

EVERTON (0) 0 **TOTTENHAM** (0) 2
36,670
Vega 72, Ginola 76

Everton: N Southall, M Ward, C Short (sub: D Cadamarteri, 74min), S Bilic, C Tiler, T Phelan (sub: A Hinchcliffe, 72min), G Farrelly (sub: J Oster, 65min), G Speed, D Williamson, N Barmby, D Ferguson. Booked: Bilic.

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, S Carr, C Wilson, S Campbell (sub: J Scales, 44min), R Vega, R Fox, C Calderwood, A Sinton, A Nielsen (sub: D Anderton, 58min), L Ferdinand (sub: S Iversen, 78min), D Ginola.

Booked: Scales, Vega. Referee: P Jones.

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 **SHEFFIELD WED** (1) 3
Hirst 48; Palmer 55. 15,244
Atherton 26, Collins 69, Di Canio 84

Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd, F Benali, C Palmer, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, M Le Tissier, M Oakley, D Hirst (sub: E Ostenstad, 83min), K Davies, K Richardson (sub: S Basham, 87min).

Booked: Davies.

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, I Nolan, J Newsome, D Walker, M Pembridge, G Whittingham, J Magilton (sub: W Collins, 64min), P Atherton, P Rudi, A Booth (sub: B Carbone, 76min), P di Canio.

Referee: S Dunn.

WEST HAM (1) 2 **ASTON VILLA** (0) 1
Hartson 18, 48. 24,976
Yorke 47

West Ham United: L Miklosko, T Breacker, D Unsworth, R Ferdinand, J Pearce, E Berkovic, S Lomas, K Rowland, S Potts, S Abou (sub: P Alves, 69min), J Hartson.

Booked: Hartson.

Aston Villa: M Oakes, G Charles, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S Staunton, R Scimeca (sub: S Grayson, 46min), F Nelson, M Draper, S Milosevic, D Yorke, S Collymore.

Referee: P Alcock.

Yesterday

ARSENAL (0) 0 **LIVERPOOL** (0) 1
38,094
McManaman 56

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, A Adams, D Platt, I Wright, D Bergkamp, M Overmars, M Keown, E Petit (sub: G Grimandi, 78min), S Hughes (sub: C Wreh, 65min).

Booked: Adams, Dixon.

Liverpool: D James, B T Kvarme, J McAteer, S McManaman, O Leonhardsen, J Redknapp, K Riedle, M Owen (sub: D Murphy, 88min), S I Bjornebye, D Matteo, J Carragher.

Booked: Matteo, Bjornebye. Referee: G Poll.

MANCHESTER UTD (1) 4 **BLACKBURN** (0) 0
Solskjaer 18, 53; Henchoz 60 (og); Kenna 85 (og). 55,175

Sent off: C Sutton (Blackburn) 56

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville, G Pallister (sub: K Poborsky, 70min), D Beckham, N Butt (sub: R Johnsen, 65min), A Cole, E Sheringham (sub: B McClair, 75min), R Giggs, P Neville, O G Solskjaer, H Berg.

Booked: Butt.

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, P Pedersen, S Ripley (sub: L Bohinen, 62min), C Sutton, J Wilcox (sub: D Duff, 75min), G Flitcroft, W McKinlay (sub: K Gallacher, 60min), G Croft, S Henchoz.

Booked: Sutton. Referee: A B Wilkie.

OVERSEAS RESULTS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Atalanta 0 Lecce 0; Bari 2 Brescia 1; Bologna 2 Sampdoria 2; Empoli 2 Piacenza 3; Lazio 2 Udinese 3; Napoli 1 Fiorentina 1; Parma 0 AS Roma 2; Vicenza 1 Internazionale 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	10	8	2	0	25	11	26
* Juventus	9	6	3	0	22	8	21
AS Roma	10	5	4	1	20	10	19
Udinese	10	6	1	3	21	19	19
Parma	10	5	3	2	17	8	18
Lazio	10	4	3	3	15	11	15
Sampdoria	10	4	3	3	18	17	15
Vicenza	10	4	3	3	15	17	15
Fiorentina	10	3	4	3	18	13	13
* AC Milan	9	3	3	3	12	10	12
Atalanta	10	3	2	5	11	13	11
Empoli	10	3	1	6	12	17	10
Brescia	10	3	1	6	13	19	10
Bari	10	3	1	6	10	20	10
Lecce	10	3	1	6	9	19	10
Bologna	10	1	5	4	15	18	8
Piacenza	10	1	4	5	8	18	7
Napoli	10	1	2	7	8	23	5

** does not include last night's match*

SPANISH LEAGUE: Sporting Gijón 2 Real Betis 3; Real Sociedad 5 Compostela 1; Valencia 0 Salamanca 1; Mallorca 0 Real Zaragoza 2; Racing Santander 0 Oviedo 0; Real Madrid 3 Celta Vigo 1; Real Valladolid 3 Athletic Bilbao 0.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	14	9	4	1	26	10	31
Barcelona	13	9	1	3	27	16	28
Real Sociedad	14	7	5	2	21	9	26
* Atlético Madrid	13	7	4	2	30	13	25
* Español	13	6	6	1	22	8	24
Celta Vigo	14	7	3	4	24	18	24
Oviedo	14	5	7	2	16	16	22
Mallorca	14	5	6	3	21	12	21
Zaragoza	14	5	5	4	22	23	20
Real Betis	14	5	5	4	18	20	20
Athletic Bilbao	14	4	7	3	15	16	19
Racing Santander	14	4	4	6	14	18	16
Mérida	13	4	4	5	10	16	16
Compostela	14	3	5	6	20	25	14
* Deportivo Coruña	13	2	7	4	13	14	13
Valladolid	14	3	4	7	12	23	13
* Tenerife	13	3	3	7	12	22	12

** does not include last night's matches*

GERMAN LEAGUE: Kaiserslautern 2 SV Hamburg 1; Arminia Bielefeld 1 Schalke 04 1; 1860 Munich 0 VfL Bochum 2; Werder Bremen 2 VfB Stuttgart 2; Borussia Mönchengladbach 0 VfL Wolfsburg 2; Karlsruhe SC 3 Hansa Rostock 0; MSV Duisburg 0 Hertha Berlin 1.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaiserslautern	17	12	3	2	37	21	39
* Bayern Munich	16	10	5	1	35	15	35
VfB Stuttgart	17	8	5	4	35	21	29
Schalke 04	17	8	5	4	20	15	29
* Bayer Leverkusen	16	7	5	4	30	20	26
Hansa Rostock	17	7	3	7	27	24	24
MSV Duisburg	17	7	2	8	20	22	23

** does not include last night's match*

FRENCH LEAGUE: Nantes 1 Marseilles 0; Guingamp 0 Bastia 0; Lens 3 Strasbourg 2; Lyons 3 Rennes 1; Montpellier 1 Le Havre 1; Chateauroux 0 AS Monaco 2; Toulouse 1 Cannes 0.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	18	11	2	5	31	17	35
* Metz	17	10	4	3	29	15	34
Marseille	18	10	3	5	25	14	33
* Paris SG	17	9	4	4	29	16	31
Lens	18	9	4	5	27	22	31
* Bordeaux	17	8	6	3	22	17	30
Bastia	18	7	6	5	21	15	27
* Auxerre	17	8	2	7	28	24	26
Lyon	18	8	2	8	22	21	26
Toulouse	18	6	5	7	17	23	23

** does not include last night's matches*

DUTCH LEAGUE: FC Utrecht 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 0; Sparta Rotterdam 0 Feyenoord 3; FC Twente Enschede 1 FC Volendam 1; Vitesse Arnhem 2 PSV Eindhoven 2; Doetinchem 3 Nijmegen 2; Willem II Tilburg 2 Breda 0.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Belenenses 1 Benfica 2; Setubal 0 Academica 1; Campomaiorense 4 Rio Ave 1; Amadora 1 Sporting Braga 0; Varzim 1 Chaves 1; Maritimo 0 Guimaraes 1; Salgueiros 1 Boavista 1.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Harelbeke 3 Lokeren 2; Westerlo 1 Eeklo 1; Beveren 1 Charleroi 0; Antwerp 1 Mouscron 2; RWD Molenbeek 1 Standard Liège 4; Lierse 1 Genk 2; Lommel 0 Ghent 1; St Truiden 2 Aalst 0.

WORLD CUP: Asian and Oceanian qualifying zones: Final play-off, second leg: Australia 2 Iran 2 (in Melbourne; Iran qualify for World Cup finals on away-goals rule).

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Man Utd	16	7	1	0	27	4	3	3	2	13	8	34	+28
2 Chelsea	16	6	0	1	16	6	4	1	4	19	11	31	+18
3 Blackburn	16	5	2	1	17	9	3	4	1	10	8	30	+10
4 Leeds	16	4	1	3	13	11	5	1	2	13	8	29	+7
5 Arsenal	16	5	2	1	18	4	2	4	2	12	14	27	+12
6 Leicester	16	3	4	2	11	8	4	1	2	10	6	26	+7
7 Liverpool	15	5	0	2	18	6	2	4	2	8	8	25	+12
8 Newcastle	13	5	2	1	12	9	2	1	2	6	8	24	+1
9 Derby	15	5	2	0	17	5	2	0	6	11	19	23	+4
10 C Palace	15	0	3	4	5	11	5	1	2	10	6	19	-2
11 Wimbledon	16	2	2	5	10	14	3	2	2	8	7	19	-3
12 West Ham	15	5	0	1	12	5	1	1	7	8	20	19	-5
13 Aston Villa	16	3	1	3	8	12	2	2	5	8	11	18	-7
14 Sheff Wed	16	4	1	3	15	12	1	2	5	13	25	18	-9
15 Coventry	16	2	6	1	10	10	1	2	4	3	11	17	-8
16 Southamptn	16	4	1	4	15	13	1	0	6	5	13	16	-6
17 Tottenham	16	3	2	3	7	8	1	2	5	6	14	16	-9
18 Bolton	15	2	4	1	4	3	1	3	4	7	18	16	-10
19 Barnsley	16	2	1	5	8	18	2	0	6	6	25	13	-29
20 Everton	16	3	1	4	11	13	0	2	6	5	14	12	-11

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (1) 2 **PORTSMOUTH** (1) 1
Furlong 36, 73. 17,738 — Hall 35

BRADFORD (1) 2 **NORWICH** (0) 1
Steiner 13, 48. 16,637 — Bellamy 75

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 **BURY** (0) 0
Dalton 7, 83. 11,929

IPSWICH (0) 0 **NOTTM FOREST** (0) 1
17,580 — Campbell 65

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1 **WEST BROM** (0) 0
Beck 34. 30,164

OXFORD UTD (1) 2 **PORT VALE** (0) 0
Beauchamp 32, Jemson 57. 5,762

SHEFF UTD (0) 1 **CREWE** (0) 0
Fjortoft 47. 16,973

STOCKPORT (3) 3 **MAN CITY** (0) 1
Cook 6, Armstrong 8, Angell 30 — Bradbury 49. 11,351

STOKE (0) 1 **READING** (1) 2
Thorne 81. 11,103 — Morley 32 (pen), 59

SUNDERLAND (3) 3 **TRANMERE** (0) 0
Clark 12, 14, Phillips 42. 26,674

WOLVERHAMPTON (1) 3 **QPR** (0) 2
Osborn 44, Goodman 67, 77. 23,645 — Sheron 61, Peacock 85

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Charlton Athletic 3 Swindon Town 0.

SECOND DIVISION

BRENTFORD (0) 1 **WREXHAM** (0) 1
Aspinall 80. 3,748 — Owen 62

BRISTOL R (1) 2 **MILLWALL** (0) 1
Beadle 10, Hayles 80 — Shaw 60. 5,542

Sent off: B Law (Millwall) 88

BURNLEY (0) 2 **NORTHAMPTON** (0) 1
Moore 76, Barnes 82 — Gibb 49. 8,369

CARLISLE (0) 0 **BRISTOL CITY** (1) 3
5,044 — Goater 19, 53, Goodridge 59

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 **SOUTHEND** (0) 0
Willis 57. 4,101

GILLINGHAM (0) 0 **GRIMSBY** (1) 2
4,855 — Jobling 35, Black 76

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 **OLDHAM** (1) 2
5,452 — Maugé 9 (og), Rickers 90

PRESTON (1) 3 **FULHAM** (1) 1
Ashcroft 11, 69 (pen), 83. 9,723 — Scott 6

WALSALL (0) 2 **BLACKPOOL** (1) 1
Watson 64, Boli 86 — Clarkson 35. 3,933

WATFORD (2) 2 **WIGAN** (1) 1
Thomas 12, Mooney 45 — Jones 11. 9,455

WYCOMBE (0) 1 **BOURNEMOUTH** (0) 1
Stallard 52. 4,340 — Robinson 77 (pen)

Sent off: J Cornforth (Wycombe) 77

YORK (0) 1 **LUTON** (1) 2
Cresswell 87. 3,636 — Alexander 13, Thorpe 72

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (2) 2 **DARLINGTON** (0) 0
McGleish 11, Devine 24. 1,726

CAMBRIDGE UTD (1) 2 **HARTLEPOOL** (0) 0
Kyd 2, Campbell 47. 2,513

CARDIFF (0) 1 **SCARBOROUGH** (1) 1
Dale 69. 2,593 — McElhatton 41

CHESTER (0) 1 **EXETER** (1) 1
Rimmer 66. 2,288 — Rowbotham 45

Sent off: L Baddeley (Exeter) 36

HULL (0) 3 **DONCASTER** (0) 0
Gore 48 (og), Rioch 58 (pen), Hocking 83. 4,721

LINCOLN (0) 1 **MACCLESFIELD** (1) 1
Gordon 59. 3,402 — Whittaker 14

MANSFIELD (0) 0 **LEYTON ORIENT** (0) 0
2,086

NOTTS COUNTY (2) 2 **PETERBOROUGH** (1) 2
Jones 27, Robson 39. 8,006 — Gregory 6, Quinn 58 (pen)

ROCHDALE (0) 0 **TORQUAY** (0) 1
1,729 — Jack 51

ROTHERHAM (1) 3 **COLCHESTER** (0) 2
Glover 11, 62, Knill 73. 3,259 — Skelton 48, Sale 61

SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 **BRIGHTON** (0) 2
3,187 — Storer 47, Ryan 68

SHREWSBURY (0) 0 **SWANSEA** (0) 1
2,697 — Coates 73

GOALSCORERS

FIRST DIVISION: 17: P van Hooijdonk (Nottingham Forest). 14: C Hay (Swindon), B Angell (Stockport). 12: C Mendonca (Charlton). 10: K Campbell (Nottingham Forest); A Hunt (West Bromwich), A Armstrong (Stockport), D Johnson (Ipswich); D Kelly (Tranmere). 9: L Clark (Sunderland); M Beck (Middlesbrough), J-A Fjortoft (Sheffield Utd); L Jones (Tranmere); P Merson (Middlesbrough); P Thorne (Stoke).

SECOND DIVISION: 13: S Goater (Bristol City); R Boli (Walsall). 12: M Stallard (Wycombe); R Rowe (York); R Taylor (Brentford). 11: P Peschisolido (Fulham). 10: A Akinbiyi (Gillingham); B Hayles (Bristol Rovers); M Jansen (Carlisle), A Thorpe (Luton). 9: Ashcroft (Preston); S Barlow (Oldham); P Kennedy (Watford); D Seal (Northampton), R Rosenthal (Watford).

THIRD DIVISION: 16: J Quinn (Peterborough). 12: G Bennett (Chester); D Rowbotham (Exeter); M Carruthers (Peterborough). 11: D White (Shrewsbury, three for Notts County), S Whitehall (Mansfield). I Christie (Mansfield).

Includes all competitions

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

HIBERNIAN (0) 1 **MOTHERWELL** (0) 1
Dods 75. 9,999 — Coyle 90

Hibernian: D Gottskalksson, P Tosh, J Boco, A Dods, J Hughes, J Chamley (sub: B Lavety (sub: W Miller, 63min), S Crawford, A Rougier, P McGinlay.

Motherwell: S Woods, E May, S McMillan, K Christie, S Craigan (sub: I Ross, 70min), J Philliben, J Hendry, S Valakari (sub: L McCulloch, 81min), T Coyne (sub: D Arnott, 49min), S McSkimming, O Coyle.

Booked: Craigan, McSkimming.

Referee: S Roy.

KILMARNOCK (2) 2 **DUNFERMLINE** (1) 1
Nevin 24, 35. 6,667 — Smith 39

Sent off: D Barnett (Dunfermline) 50

Kilmarnock: D Lekovic, A MacPherson, D Kerr, J Lauchlan, K McGowne, G Holt, P Nevin, M Reilly (sub: J Henry, 80min), M Roberts (sub: A Wright, 83min), J Vareilles, P Mitchell.

Dunfermline: I Westwater, G Shields, I Den Bieman, A Tod, D Barnett, H Curran, A Moore (sub: G Shaw, 76min), S Dunne (sub: G Britton, 82min), A Smith, H French, S Petrie (sub: D Bingham, 76min).

Booked: Smith.

Referee: K Clark.

RANGERS (2) 3 **ST JOHNSTONE** (1) 2
Gattuso 7, Negri 43, 57. 49,142 — Preston 44, O'Boyle 72

Rangers: A Goram, S McCall, J Albertz (sub: A Cleland, 72min), R Gough, S Porrini (sub: S Stensaas, 45min), J Bjorklund, J Thern, P Gascoigne, M Negri, R Gattuso, B Laudrup (sub: G Durie, 25min).

St Johnstone: A Main, J McQuillan, C Davidson, N Dasovic, A Kernaghan, J Weir, P Scott, J O'Neil (sub: K O'Halloran, 88min), P Kane, G O'Boyle, A Preston (sub: R Grant, 70min).

Booked: Davidson, Kane.

Referee: J Herald.

FIRST DIVISION

AIRDRIE (2) 2 **STIRLING ALB** (0) 0
Connolly 10, Cooper 12. 1,320

GK MORTON (1) 3 **PARTICK TH** (1) 2
Reid 33, Archdeacon 61, Gray 66 — Watson 34, Morgan 52. 3,384

HAMILTON (0) 0 **DUNDEE** (1) 4
1,967 — Grady 38, 57, 83 (pen), McCulloch 64 (og)

RAITH ROVERS (0) 0 **AYR UTD** (0) 1
3,015 — Dick 85

ST MIRREN (1) 2 **FALKIRK** (0) 0
Turner 17, Taylor 67. 2,700

SECOND DIVISION

BRECHIN (0) 2 **CLYDE** (1) 1
Farnan 51, Sorbie 90 — McStay 25. 404

INVERNESS CT (1) 2 **QUEEN OF SOUTH** (0) 1
Stewart 20, 70 (pen). 1,620 — McKeown 75

STENHOUSEMUIR (2) 2 **CLYDEBANK** (2) 3
Sprott 4, Innes 14. 550 — McDonald 8, 23, Lovering 66

STRANRAER (0) 2 **FORFAR ATH** (2) 2
Campbell 71, Docherty 75. 586 — Losey 16, Cargill 41

POSTPONED: Livingston v East Fife (pools panel verdict: Half-time no-score draw; Full-time: home win).

THIRD DIVISION

ALLOA ATH (1) 4 **ALBION ROVERS** (0) 0
Simpson 37, Gilmour 73, Irvine 74, 75. 451

BERWICK (0) 0 **ROSS COUNTY** (0) 0
484

COWDENBEATH (0) 0 **QUEEN'S PARK** (0) 0
220

DUMBARTON (0) 1 **ARBROATH** (0) 2
Meechan 60. 379 — Crawford 54, Spence 81

MONTROSE (0) 1 **EAST STIRLING** (1) 1
Watt 47. 258 — McPherson 23

COCA-COLA CUP

Final

CELTIC (2) 3 **DUNDEE UTD** (0) 0
Rieper 21, Larsson 24, Burley 59. 49,305

(at Ibrox)

GOALSCORERS

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: 29: M Negri (Rangers). 14: R Winters (Dundee Utd), G McSwegan (Dundee Utd). 13: H Larsson (Celtic), A Smith (Dunfermline). 11: K Olofsson (Dundee Utd); S Donnelly (Celtic). 9: T Coyne (Motherwell). 8: A McCoist (Rangers). 7: S Adams (Hearts); D Dodds (Aberdeen); N McCann (Hearts); O Coyle (Motherwell); A Thom (Celtic); P Wright (Kilmarnock).

FIRST DIVISION: 9: W Hawke (Greenock Morton). 8: A Bone (Stirling). 7: J Grady (Dundee); J Mendes (St Mirren), S Cooper (Airdrie). 6: E Annand (Dundee); L Djallo (Ayr); P Connolly (Airdrie); P McGrillen (Falkirk); A Craig (Falkirk). 5: J Clark (Hamilton); J Dair (Raith); D McFarlane (Hamilton); A Morgan (Partick); D Moss (Falkirk).

SECOND DIVISION: 11: S Mallan (Queen of South). 10: I Stewart (Inverness CT); B Honeyman (Forfar); B Thomson (Inverness CT). 8: C Flannigan (Queen of South). 7: P Brownlie (Clyde). 6: T Bryce (Queen of South); G Young (Stranraer). 5: M Campbell (Stranraer), G Harvey (Livingston); R Brand (Brechin); P Lovering (Clydebank), B Docherty (Stranraer). 4: A Cargill (Forfar); I Little (Stenhousemuir).

THIRD DIVISION: 13: D Adams (Ross County). 12: W Irvine (Alloa). 9: B Spence (Arbroath); K Walton (Berwick). 8: D Watt (East Stirling), C McKinnon (Dumbarton). 7: P Forrester (Berwick), G Wood (Ross County). 6: L Gardner (Albion); B Grant (Arbroath), C McGlashan (Montrose); D Bruce (Albion); D Pew (Alloa). 5: C Cooper (Arbroath), W Watters (Albion).

Includes all competitions

Juan Sebastian Verón, of Sampdoria, crumbles under a tackle from Giancarlo Marocchi, of Bologna, during the 2-2 draw in the Italian league yesterday

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

FARNBOROUGH (0) 3 **KIDDERMNSTR** (1) 3
Rowlands 57, Mehew 61, 76. 678 — Yates 13, Arnold 80, Doherty 90

GATESHEAD (0) 0 **YEOVIL** (2) 3
724 — Patmore 18, 37, Archer 56

HEREFORD (0) 0 **DOVER** (0) 1
2,147 — McRobert 66

Sent off: J Leberl (Dover) 78

KETTERING (1) 2 **STEVENAGE** (0) 0
Wilkes 44, Pearson 83. 1,488

LEEK (0) 0 **CHELTENHAM** (0) 0
708

NORTHWICH (3) 5 **WELLING** (0) 1
Williams 15, 37, 40, Tait 53, Collins 60 — Skiverton 68. 929

RUSHDEN & D (0) 1 **HAYES** (2) 3
Pye 87 (og). 2,158 — Bunce 5, Randall 37, 78

SLOUGH (0) 1 **SOUTHPORT** (0) 0
Owusu 74. 589

STALYBRIDGE (0) 1 **HEDNESFORD** (1) 1
Thomas 89. 651 — Denison 44

Sent off: A Sullivan (Stalybridge) 73

TELFORD (0) 1 **MORECAMBE** (3) 3
Langford 47. 518 — Grimshaw 20, Norman 23, Milner 25

WOKING (2) 2 **HALIFAX** (0) 2
Betsy 3, Taylor 41. 3,319 — Horsfield 62, Paterson 72 (pen)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
		HOME					AWAY					
Halifax	17	8	0	0	24	4	4	4	1	12	10	40
Hednesford	19	8	2	0	18	6	3	4	2	16	16	39
Morecambe	17	4	3	2	18	17	6	2	0	21	8	35
Cheltenham	17	6	2	0	18	7	4	3	2	12	10	35
Woking	19	5	3	1	19	10	3	4	3	11	11	31
Rushden	19	5	2	3	18	15	4	0	5	10	15	29
Hayes	18	4	2	3	14	10	4	2	3	15	9	28
Southport	17	5	1	2	18	11	3	3	3	13	11	28
Hereford	18	3	3	3	13	12	3	3	3	12	11	24
Yeovil	15	5	1	2	16	10	2	1	4	10	10	23
Dover	17	4	1	3	10	11	3	1	5	12	19	23
Slough	16	2	2	4	13	14	4	2	2	12	9	22
Stevenage	19	3	4	2	15	11	2	3	5	10	15	22
Northwich	17	2	6	0	15	10	1	5	3	11	15	20
Kiddmnstr	19	3	3	3	13	11	2	2	6	13	19	20
Farnborough	18	3	2	4	10	13	2	2	5	12	23	19
Leek	18	3	4	3	14	11	1	2	5	9	19	18
Welling	16	3	2	3	13	13	2	1	5	10	18	18
Stalybridge	17	3	3	3	15	13	1	0	7	6	17	15
Telford	18	1	3	4	8	14	2	3	5	14	22	15
Kettering	17	2	3	4	11	13	0	3	5	6	15	12
Gateshead	18	1	2	7	9	22	0	4	4	11	20	9

NON-LEAGUE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Bishop Auckland 3 Radcliffe 0; Chorley 2 Alfreton 0; Frickley 2 Hyde 1; Guiseley 1 Spennymoor 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	21	14	4	3	34	12	46
Bishop Auckl	20	9	7	4	39	28	34
Boston Utd	19	8	8	3	25	18	32
Altrincham	20	9	3	8	34	20	30
Runcorn	19	9	3	7	35	27	30
Guiseley	20	7	9	4	30	26	30
Emley	18	8	4	6	31	26	28
Colwyn Bay	18	8	3	7	26	28	27
Winsford Utd	14	8	2	4	18	10	26
Spennymoor	17	7	5	5	23	23	26
Lancaster	21	7	5	9	33	38	26
Hyde Utd	18	6	7	5	31	25	25
Gainsborough	16	7	3	6	21	17	24
Accrington	22	5	9	8	26	30	24
Frickley	19	6	5	8	20	27	23
Chorley	21	6	3	12	25	43	21
Leigh RMI	13	5	5	3	19	12	20
Marine	15	5	5	5	20	20	20
Bamber Bridge	19	5	4	10	24	38	19
Blyth Spartans	18	4	6	8	19	26	18
Radcliffe Boro	19	4	4	11	22	39	16
Alfreton Town	17	2	2	13	11	35	8

FIRST DIVISION: Droylsden 0 Eastwood Town 2; Farsley Celtic 2 Lincoln 1; Flixton 2 Ashton 2; Netherfield 2 Trafford 1; Stocksbridge PS 2 Buxton 1; Whitby 2 Congleton 1; Workington 1 Whitley Bay 2.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Gresley 3 Crawley 1; Worcester 3 Rothwell 0. Postponed: Ashford v Forest Green.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merthyr	17	12	3	2	32	11	39
Forest Green	18	10	4	4	41	26	34
Dorchester	18	9	5	4	29	16	32
King's Lynn	18	9	4	3	24	21	31
Halesowen	18	8	6	4	27	11	30
Crawley Town	19	8	6	5	31	27	30
Bath	17	8	5	4	32	24	29
Atherstone	18	8	4	6	24	23	28
Nuneaton	17	8	3	6	38	26	27
Worcester C	17	8	3	6	20	17	27
Burton Alb	19	7	5	7	22	20	26
Hastings	18	6	5	7	32	32	23
Bromsgrove	16	7	1	8	34	26	22
Tamworth	17	6	4	7	35	31	22
Gloucester C	16	6	4	6	19	17	22
Gresley Rov	20	6	3	11	32	45	21
Rothwell T	18	4	8	6	26	39	20
Salisbury	17	5	3	9	23	34	18
Sittingbourne	17	5	2	10	20	26	17
Cambridge C	16	4	3	9	20	34	15
Ashford Town	15	3	1	11	11	35	10
St Leonards	18	1	4	13	17	46	7

MIDLAND DIVISION: Evesham 3 Blakenall 4; Ilkeston 3 Sutton Coldfield Town 0; Paget 3 Bedworth 2; Shepshed Dynamo 1 RC Warwick 1; Stafford 3 Bilston 1; Stourbridge 2 Brackley 0; VS Rugby 3 Moor Green 3. Southern division: Baldock 0 Newport AFC 2; Clevedon 1 Tonbridge Angels 0; Dartford 2 Trowbridge 0; Fisher 5 Weston-super-Mare 2; Fleet 2 Cinderford 3; Havant 4 Witney 3; Newport IoW 5 Yate 0; Waterlooville 5 Erith and Belvedere 0.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Saffron Walden 1 Burnham Ramblers 7.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 7 Cove 0; Bedfont 2 Merstham 1; Feltham 1 Cobham 0; Chipstead 4 Viking Sports 0; Farnham 2 Chessington and Hook 1; Godalming and Guildford 0 Westfield 0; Reading 0 Raynes Park Vale 0; Sandhurst 0 Ashford 1; Walton Casuals 0 Netherne 2.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwoods 1 Carthusians 1; Etonians 3 Chigwellians 1; Foresters 5 Salopians 1.

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Carshalton 3 Hendon 1; Enfield 1 Gravesend and Northfleet 2; Kingstonian 0 Dagenham and Redbridge 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dagenham R	20	14	4	2	43	17	46
Sutton Utd	18	10	5	3	38	21	35
Kingstonian	19	9	7	3	35	21	34
Harrow Boro	16	10	1	5	27	23	31
Boreham W	17	8	4	5	36	22	28
Purfleet	17	7	6	4	25	23	27
Enfield	20	7	5	8	30	33	26
Heybridge	15	8	1	6	32	27	25
St Albans	16	7	3	6	21	21	24
Walton & H	18	7	3	8	24	30	24
Aylesbury	19	7	3	9	23	33	24
Hendon	17	6	5	6	21	25	23
Bromley	18	5	7	6	24	23	22
Dulwich	18	5	6	7	30	28	21
Chesham	19	5	5	9	35	35	20
Carshalton	14	5	5	4	24	25	20
Gravesend & N	18	6	2	10	31	34	20
Bishop's S	19	6	1	12	25	35	19
Yeading	18	4	6	8	21	27	18
Hitchin	17	3	7	7	19	23	16
Basingstoke	13	4	4	5	16	25	16
Oxford City	18	2	4	12	15	44	10

FIRST DIVISION: Barton Rovers 3 Whyteleafe 0; Leatherhead 0 Hampton 0; Molesey 2 Chertsey 4; Staines 1 Leyton Pennant 0; Wembley 0 Bognor 5; Wokingham 1 Croydon 1. Second division: Barking 1 Tooting and Mitcham 2; Bedford Town 2 Egham 0; Bracknell 1 Witham 1; Canvey Island 5 Tilbury 1; Chalfont St Peter 1 Hungerford 2; Cheshunt 1 Braintree 2; Met Police 2 Edgware 2; Wealdstone 5 Marlow 0; Windsor and Eton 2 Leighton 2; Wivenhoe 6 Horsham 2. Postponed: Banstead v Northwood. Third division: Corinthian Casuals 3 Croydon 2; Dorking 2 Clapton 0; East Thurrock 2 Hornchurch 1; Flackwell Heath 0 Ware 2; Ford 6 Wingate and Finchley 0; Harlow 1 Epsom and Ewell 1; Hemel Hempstead 2 Lewes 0; Hertford 5 Tring 0; Kingsbury 1 Aveley 2; Southall 1 Camberley 7.

FA UMBRO TROPHY

THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND: Accrington Stanley 0 Runcorn 5; Aylesbury 0 Dulwich 3; Barrow 4 Hinckley Utd 1; Bashley 4 Cirencester Town 1; Basingstoke 4 Romford 0; Belper Town 1 Boston 5; Berkhamsted 2 Salisbury 1; Billericay 2 Aldershot Town 1; Bromley 1 Purfleet 4; Bromsgrove 1 Worksop 2; Chesham 2 Sutton United 1; Corby 2 Margate 2; Dorchester 3 Worthing 0; Gainsborough 1 Bamber Bridge 0; Halesowen 1 Burton 2; Harrogate Town 0 Blyth Spartans 3; Harrow 1 Bath 3; Hastings 3 Heybridge Swifts 2; Hitchin 0 Boreham Wood 2; King's Lynn 1 Chelmsford 4; Marine 1 Grantham 1; Matlock 1 Winsford 1; Merthyr 2 Cambridge City 2; Nuneaton 0 Altrincham 2; Sittingbourne 1 Abingdon Town 1; St Albans 5 Bishop's Stortford 2; Tamworth 0 Lancaster 1; Wisbech 2 Raunds T 2; Yeading 2 St Leonards 0. Postponed: Bradford Park Avenue v Leigh RMI; Great Harwood v Witton; Solihull v Emley.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 2 Greenwich 1; Corinthian 0 Deal 3; Cray 1 Sheppey 1; Crockenhill 0 Folkestone Invicta 9; Erith 4 Thamesmead 0; Faversham 1 Beckenham 0; Ramsgate 2 Hythe 2; Slade Green 2 Lordswood 2; Tunbridge Wells 0 Swanley Furness 6; Whitstable 1 VCD 2. Postponed: Chatham v Herne Bay.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Peacehaven and Telscombe 1 Burgess Hill 4; Portfield 1 Saltdean 4; Whitehawk 0 Redhill 5. Postponed: Hassocks v Mile Oak; Wick v Hailsham.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Torrington v Keynsham. Les Phillips Cup: Bideford 2 Bristol Manor Farm 0; Bitton 3 Calne 4; Westbury 3 Brislington 3; Tiverton 10 Heavitree 0; Chippenham 3 Bridport 0; Frome 5 Warminster 2; Yeovil 1 Paulton 5; Melksham 3 Chard 1. Postponed: Barnstaple v Taunton; Bridgwater v Elmore; Larkhall Ath v Ilfracombe; Welton v Mangotsfield; Crediton v Glastonbury; Wellington v Dawlish.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 8 Atherton Collieries 0; Maine Road 1 Rossendale 4; Newcastle Town 6 Blackpool Rovers 0; Ramsbottom 3 Prescot Cables 4; Warrington 0 Chadderton 2. Postponed: Atherton LR v Salford; Darwen v Vauxhall GM; Glossop North End v Holker Old Boys; Mossley v Kidsgrove; Nantwich v Clitheroe; St Helens v Haslingden.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: City of London 3 HAC 1; Parkfield 5 Old Finchleians 3; Ulysses 3 St Mary's College 0. Senior two: Ealing Association 3 Westerns 2; UCL Academicals 2 Albanian 0. Senior three: Hadley 0 Pegasus 3; N SY Comets 1 Inland Revenue 3; Mayfield Ath 0 Old Colfeians 3; BBC 6 London Welsh 4.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield OG 2 Glyn OB 3; Old Suttonians 5 Cardinal Manning OB 2. Senior first division: Old Reigations 1 Old Kingsburians 1; Clapham OX 2 Old Salvatorians 4.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 3 Westfields 0; Kington 4 Stourport 3; Ludlow 0 Lye 1. Postponed: Bustleholme v Bloxwich; Ettingshall v Stafford; Gornal v Wolverhampton Casuals; Malvern v Cradley; Tividale v Darlaston; Walsall Wood v Wolverhampton.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Chasetown 0 Wednesfield 1; Pelsall V 3 Shifnal T 3; Rushall O 2 Stratford T 2; Sandwell 1 Kings Norton 1; Stapenhill 1 Knypersley V 1. Postponed: Boldmere St M v Bloxwich Town; Bridgnorth v Oldbury U; W Mid Police v Pershore T; Willenhall v Rocester.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coventry Sphinx 2 Studley BKL 5; Dudley Sports 1 Worcester 3; Knowle 4 Alvechurch 4. Postponed: Bilston Community College v Wellesbourne; Boldmere Swifts v Kenilworth; Cheslyn Hay v Handrahan Timbers; Continental Star v Southam; Kings Heath v Coleshill; Meir KA v David Lloyd AFC. President's Cup: Hams Hall 3 Monica Star 1; Polesworth North Warwick 3 Fairfield Villa 0.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 2 Ford Sports 1; Bourne 3 Eynesbury 3; Kempston 0 Long Buckby 2; Northampton Spencer 3 Yaxley 2; Potton 1 Buckingham 0; St Neots 0 Desborough 3; Stamford 3 Wootton 0; Stotfold 3 Holbeach 0. Postponed: Wellingborough v Mirrlees Blackstone.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton 0 Felixstowe Port and Town 3; Harwich and Parkeston 1 Ely 3; Newmarket 0 Halstead 1; Soham 3 Sudbury Wanderers 3; Sudbury Tn 2 Lowestoft 2; Tiptree 0 Bury Town 1; Warboys 0 Stowmarket 2; Woodbridge 1 Histon 5.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 2 Thatcham 0; Aerostructures 3 Bournemouth 3; BAT 6 Christchurch 1; East Cowes 5 Downton 1; Eastleigh 1 Whitchurch 1; Gosport 2 Totton 4; Portsmouth RN 0 Andover 2; Wimborne 4 Bemerton Heath Harl 0; Cowes Sports 3 AFC Newbury 2.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury 2 Kintbury 0; Fairford 5 Wantage 1. Postponed: Tuffley v Shortwood.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Harefield 4 Amersham 2; Haringey Boro 4 Barkingside 2; Hillingdon Boro 5 Cockfosters 1; Ruislip Manor 2 Beaconsfield 1; St Margaretsbury 4 Hanwell 1; Waltham Abbey 1 Brook House 2; Woodford 1 Brimsdown 3. Premier division north: Arlesey 4 Langford 1; Biggleswade 3 Potters Bar 3; Buckingham Athletic 2 London Colney 3; Hoddesdon 1 Harpenden 3, Milton Keynes 0 Brache Sparta 1; Royston 1 Welwyn Garden 2.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 3 Hallam 0; Brigg 1 Eccleshill 1; Denaby 0 North Ferriby 3; Ossett Albion 1 Glasshoughton Welfare 1; Pickering 3 Curzon Ashton 2; Pontefract Cols 3 Ossett Town 1; Sheffield 6 Hatfield Main 2. Postponed: Selby v Liversedge; Thackley v Hucknall.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers 2 Billingham Town 3; Guisborough 1 Morpeth 0; Jarrow Roofing 0 Shildon 1; Murton 0 Tow Law 3; Penrith 1 South Shields 1. Postponed: Billingham v Durham; Crook v Consett; Dunston Federation v RTM Newcastle; Stockton v Easington CWM.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Crouch End Vampires 1 West Wickham 0; Polytechnic 3 Carshalton 3; Winchmore Hill 0 Old Esthameians 5; Old Owens 8 Old Latymerians 2; Southgate Olympic 2 Ibis 2; Old Stationers 5 Kew Association 3; Brentham 3 Alleyn OB 1; Old Westminster Ctz 3 Broomfield 5.

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Coventry 0 Derby 0; Queens Park Rangers 1 Arsenal 1; Sheffield Wednesday 2 Middlesbrough 4; Tottenham 2 Chelsea 2; West Ham 0 Crystal Palace 2; Wimbledon 0 Southampton 2.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal 2 Queens Park Rangers 3; Crystal Palace 2 Portsmouth 3; Fulham 3 Cambridge 2; Norwich 0 Millwall 2; Tottenham 2 Charlton 2; Watford 1 Leyton Orient 4. Second division: Bournemouth 1 Luton 1; Colchester 0 Reading 0; Oxford 2 Barnet 1; Southampton 1 Bristol Rovers 0; Wimbledon 0 Bristol City 1; Wycombe 2 Brentford 1.

AFA SENIOR CUP: First-round replays: Old Cholmeleians 4 Old Isleworthians 2; Old Tenisonians v Shene OG.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 2 Flint Town 1; Barry 3 Conwy 1; Caersws 3 Cemaes Ynys Mon 0; Carmarthen Town 0 Caernarfon 2; Connah's Quay 2 Rhayader Town 1; Cwmbran 2 Total Network Solutions 1; Rhyl 3 Newtown 2. Postponed: Bangor City v Haverfordwest; Ebbw Vale v Porthmadog; Welshpool v Inter Cable-Tel.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 3 Buckie Thistle 0; Clachnacuddin 0 Keith 3; Deveronvale 7 Fort William 0; Forres Mechanics 3 Elgin 1; Nairn County 0 Cove 6; Peterhead 3 Huntly 3, Rothes 0 Lossiemouth 0. Postponed: Wick Academy v Fraserburgh.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena 1 Portadown 2; Cliftonville 0 Glentoran 2; Coleraine A 1 Linfield 0 (match abandoned); Crusaders 1 Omagh 0; Glenavon 1 Ards 2. First division: Bangor 2 Larne 0; Carrick 1 Newry 4; Distillery 2 Dungannon Swifts 2; Limavady 1 Ballyclare 2.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: St Patrick's Ath 2 Drogheda 0; Shelbourne 1 Derry 0; Finn Harps 3 Bohemians 2; Sligo 0 Shamrock 1; Cork 1 Kilkenny 1; UCD 1 Dundalk 3.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster 6 Wembley 0; Everton 5 Bradford 1.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	3	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required (winnings sent automatically), forecast is low; three score draws and 13 no-score draws. Full time: no claims required, forecast is very good, seven score draws and one no-score draw.

Nationwide Football League tables

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Nottm For	20	8	1	1	23	9	4	4	2	9	7	41	(32)
2 Middlesbro	19	6	2	2	16	7	5	3	1	17	9	38	(33)
3 West Brom	19	7	1	1	10	3	4	3	3	12	11	37	(22)
4 Sheff Utd	18	6	3	0	16	6	3	5	1	10	8	35	(26)
5 Swindon	20	7	2	1	18	8	3	2	5	8	19	34	(26)
6 Charlton	19	6	2	1	21	11	3	3	4	17	15	32	(38)
7 Stockport	20	6	4	0	21	10	3	1	6	12	16	32	(33)
8 Sunderland	19	4	4	2	15	8	4	2	3	14	13	30	(29)
9 Wolves	19	6	4	0	19	10	2	1	6	5	12	29	(24)
10 Bradford	20	5	4	2	12	11	2	4	3	7	8	29	(19)
11 Port Vale	20	4	4	2	13	7	3	1	6	12	18	28	(25)
12 QPR	19	5	3	1	13	8	2	2	6	12	23	26	(25)
13 Stoke	19	4	2	3	13	10	3	3	4	9	13	26	(22)
14 Birmingham	20	4	3	3	10	6	2	4	4	10	11	25	(20)
15 Norwich	19	3	3	4	9	16	3	1	5	8	13	22	(17)
16 Tranmere	19	5	1	3	17	11	1	2	7	9	17	21	(26)
17 Bury	20	3	5	2	10	10	1	4	5	11	19	21	(21)
18 Reading	20	3	2	5	14	18	2	4	4	5	13	21	(19)
19 Oxford Utd	20	4	3	3	12	10	1	2	7	11	18	20	(23)
20 Ipswich	18	3	2	3	10	10	1	5	4	10	12	19	(20)
21 Man City	19	3	3	4	14	10	1	3	5	8	14	18	(22)
22 Crewe	20	2	2	6	10	15	3	1	6	12	16	18	(22)
23 Huddersfld	20	3	3	4	10	12	1	2	7	6	20	17	(16)
24 Portsmouth	18	2	2	5	12	17	1	3	5	9	13	14	(21)

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Watford	20	8	1	1	19	8	7	2	1	16	5	48	(35)
2 Bristol City	20	8	1	1	19	7	5	2	3	16	9	42	(35)
3 Millwall	19	4	4	2	16	12	5	1	3	11	8	32	(27)
4 Chesterfld	20	6	3	1	14	8	2	5	3	8	9	32	(22)
5 Oldham	20	7	3	0	23	11	1	4	5	10	15	31	(33)
6 Northamptn	20	6	2	2	14	7	2	5	3	9	8	31	(23)
7 York	20	7	0	3	17	10	1	5	4	9	14	29	(26)
8 Bournemth	20	5	4	1	12	7	2	4	4	11	14	29	(23)
9 Blackpool	20	6	3	1	18	12	2	1	7	11	20	28	(29)
10 Bristol Rov	20	4	1	5	14	15	3	6	1	13	11	28	(27)
11 Wrexham	19	5	3	1	15	9	2	4	4	11	13	28	(26)
12 Preston	20	5	1	4	12	8	3	3	4	13	10	28	(25)
13 Grimsby	19	4	3	2	13	6	3	3	4	10	12	27	(23)
14 Fulham	20	5	4	1	13	6	2	2	6	10	16	27	(23)
15 Gillingham	20	5	3	2	13	11	2	2	6	11	17	26	(24)
16 Walsall	19	5	4	1	14	6	1	1	7	7	18	23	(21)
17 Wycombe	20	4	5	1	15	10	1	2	7	13	23	22	(28)
18 Plymouth	20	3	4	3	16	14	1	4	5	8	15	20	(24)
19 Burnley	20	3	6	1	13	10	1	2	7	9	18	20	(22)
20 Luton	19	3	1	6	12	19	2	4	3	7	10	20	(19)
21 Wigan	19	4	3	2	18	16	1	1	8	7	17	19	(25)
22 Southend	20	4	4	2	9	9	1	0	9	9	27	19	(18)
23 Brentford	20	4	3	3	15	12	0	3	7	5	21	18	(20)
24 Carlisle	20	2	2	6	7	17	2	2	6	16	21	16	(23)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Lincoln	20	5	4	1	13	9	5	3	2	8	6	37	(21)
2 Peterboro	20	6	3	1	20	8	3	6	1	18	11	36	(38)
3 Exeter	20	4	5	1	13	9	5	3	2	16	12	35	(29)
4 Notts Co	20	4	4	2	13	11	5	4	1	15	10	35	(28)
5 Scunthorpe	20	4	4	2	12	10	5	2	3	16	14	33	(28)
6 Barnet	20	5	3	3	17	11	4	2	3	14	15	32	(31)
7 Rotherham	20	5	3	2	20	16	3	4	3	13	14	31	(33)
8 Chester	20	7	4	0	19	4	2	0	7	11	21	31	(30)
9 Hartlepool	20	6	4	0	17	7	1	6	3	11	14	31	(28)
10 Macclesfld	20	7	3	0	19	6	0	6	4	9	14	30	(28)
11 Scarboro	20	6	1	3	20	13	2	3	5	11	17	28	(31)
12 Torquay	20	5	2	2	16	10	2	5	4	13	19	28	(29)
13 Colchester	20	5	3	2	16	11	2	3	5	13	17	27	(29)
14 Cardiff	20	2	7	2	11	12	3	5	1	9	7	27	(20)
15 Shrewsbury	20	6	0	4	16	13	1	5	4	15	17	26	(31)
16 L Orient	20	4	3	3	10	9	2	4	4	9	10	25	(19)
17 Camb Utd	20	4	4	2	18	14	1	5	4	10	13	24	(28)
18 Mansfield	20	4	4	2	19	14	2	2	6	6	10	24	(25)
19 Rochdale	20	6	1	3	16	6	1	1	8	8	19	23	(24)
20 Darlington	20	4	5	1	17	11	0	3	7	6	19	20	(23)
21 Swansea	20	3	2	4	7	7	3	0	8	14	24	20	(21)
22 Hull	20	4	3	3	20	18	1	0	9	6	19	18	(26)
23 Brighton	20	1	3	6	7	15	2	3	5	8	13	15	(15)
24 Doncaster	20	0	3	6	5	22	0	3	8	7	26	6	(12)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP tables

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Hearts	14	6	0	1	19	9	5	0	2	16	8	33	+18
2 Rangers	15	6	2	0	28	10	3	3	1	13	8	32	+23
3 Celtic	14	4	1	2	14	5	5	0	2	12	7	28	+14
4 Dundee Utd	14	3	1	2	14	6	2	3	3	13	18	19	+3
5 Dunfermline	15	2	4	2	11	13	3	0	4	10	19	19	-11
6 St Johnstne	15	3	1	4	8	12	2	2	3	8	10	18	-6
7 Kilmarnock	15	3	0	4	7	13	2	2	4	8	19	17	-17
8 Hibernian	15	3	2	3	17	13	0	2	6	4	11	13	-3
9 Motherwell	15	0	2	5	6	13	3	2	3	14	14	13	-7
10 Aberdeen	14	1	3	3	7	11	1	2	4	7	17	11	-14

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Dundee	15	4	2	2	11	5	6	1	0	15	3	33	+18
2 Hamilton	15	4	2	2	10	10	4	2	1	14	7	28	+7
3 Raith	15	4	1	2	9	4	3	2	3	10	10	24	+5
4 Falkirk	15	4	1	2	11	10	3	2	3	12	16	24	-3
5 Airdrie	15	3	4	1	11	9	2	3	2	6	10	22	-2
6 Ayr	15	3	1	4	16	11	2	2	3	6	9	18	+1
7 G Morton	15	2	2	3	9	11	3	1	4	11	11	18	-2
8 St Mirren	15	3	2	2	10	9	1	2	5	7	14	16	-6
9 Stirling	15	1	4	3	9	12	1	1	5	9	15	11	-9
10 Partick	15	1	2	4	12	17	0	5	3	8	12	10	-9

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Clydebank	15	3	4	1	13	6	4	3	0	11	8	28	+12
2 Livingston	14	5	1	0	15	7	2	4	2	9	8	26	+9
3 Stranraer	15	5	3	0	18	8	0	4	3	8	12	22	+6
4 Clyde	15	4	1	2	12	7	1	4	3	10	14	20	+1
5 Queen of S	15	4	2	1	11	8	2	0	6	13	18	20	-2
6 Forfar	15	2	2	4	13	18	3	2	2	13	11	19	-3
7 East Fife	14	2	1	4	13	18	3	2	2	7	8	18	-6
8 Stenhsmuir	15	3	3	2	12	13	1	1	5	7	14	16	-8
9 Brechin	15	2	3	2	8	10	1	3	4	10	18	15	-10
10 Inverness CT	16	2	4	2	10	8	1	1	5	15	18	14	+1

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Ross Co	16	5	1	2	24	10	4	3	1	15	10	31	+19
2 Alloa	15	4	0	3	17	9	6	0	2	17	8	30	+17
3 Arbroath	15	4	1	2	16	9	5	1	2	16	9	29	+14
4 East Stirling	15	6	0	2	20	8	3	1	3	8	11	28	+9
5 Albion	15	5	1	1	13	5	2	2	4	12	21	24	-1
6 Queen's Pk	16	3	2	3	12	11	2	3	3	7	8	20	0
7 Berwick	15	3	2	3	13	14	2	1	4	8	14	18	-7
8 Dumbarton	15	0	4	3	7	12	3	1	4	15	17	14	-7
9 Montrose	15	1	2	5	10	16	1	2	4	9	24	10	-21
10 Cowdenbth	15	2	1	5	5	15	1	0	6	2	15	10	-23

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FOOTBALL: TROPHY HUNT JUST BEGINNING FOR NEW COACH AFTER COCA-COLA CUP SUCCESS

Jansen brings honour back to Celtic

Celtic 3
Dundee United 0

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

WIM JANSEN has brought Celtic more than just the first trophy of his term of office. With this serene victory at Ibrox yesterday, the head coach restored to the club the kind of ascendancy that had been within the recall only of supporters who are making their reluctant way into middle age. Jansen, appointed in the summer, also confounded the prognostications.

Dundee United, who had already knocked Rangers out of the tournament, were supposed to be redoubtable and astute, yet, by the middle of the first half, they were two goals behind and in abject condition. It had not been supposed that Celtic could be so assertive given that their only previous honour of this decade, the 1995 Tennents Scottish Cup, had been grasped through a shoddy 1-0 win over Airdrie.

Yesterday, Jansen's side looked like men whose memory banks had been wiped clean of any recollection of the club's previous indignities. No doubts were present in the mind of Henrik Larsson, the forward, whose alert energy cowed United's three centre backs. Celtic had authority in all areas, with Morten Wieghorst, the man of the match, striding imperiously through the midfield as space opened up after the interval.

Defenders rarely deal in elegance, but Rieper, the Celtic centre half, not only scored the opening goal but also provided a degree of protection that left United to seek goals with little more than drives thrashed from outside the penalty area.

Yet, as much as the polish of individuals, it was tactical acumen that established Celtic's command of the occasion. Just as they had in a 4-0 trouncing of United in the Bell's Scottish League premier division last weekend, Celtic used only Larsson in the middle of the attack, flanking him with two wingers, Thom and Blinker. The days of reflection before the Coca-Cola Cup final had not brought United any nearer a solution to that strategy.

With the three centre halves attempting to deal with Larsson, it was never clear who would provide cover on the touchlines. For a while, Perry moved out to act as an uneasy left back, but United lacked confidence in their methods. Disarray is also accentuated in a side that has lost two swift goals. The first of them, predictably, came after a surge on the wing.

Thom, in the twentieth minute, stroked a perfectly-weighted pass down the right to let Wieghorst advance and deliver a careful cross that Rieper, who had remained upfield after a set-piece, headed home off the inside of the far post.

Celtic will preen themselves over the display they produced, but the ghastly nature of United's performance also shaped the character of the match. After 23 minutes, Perry, attempting to find Malpas, rolled the ball to Larsson. The Swede might have passed or even embarked on a run, but instead preferred to let fly and it was typical of Celtic's day that fortune should validate the decision. His drive deflected off Malpas and soared over Dijkstra, the goalkeeper, before dipping into the net.

Tommy McLean, the United manager, recognised that his side had cooperated in bringing their own hopes to a complete standstill. "In the first 25 minutes, we didn't string two or three passes together," he said, "and it was effectively over."

Mortified by embarrassment, United belatedly began to press forward, but they recovered only a trace of self-respect and never threatened to retrieve their hopes of victory. A simple save made by Gould, the Celtic goalkeeper, in the 78th minute was his first of the match. Thumping free kicks by Olofsson, which flew wide, supplied only faint encouragement for United.

It was always Celtic who drafted the incisive moves and the indignity for McLean's side could easily have assumed greater proportions. Blinker, after 35 minutes, failed almost entirely to make contact after Wieghorst, with another break on the right, had laid a cross into his path. In the second half, Thom was clear twice and overran the ball on each occasion.

Celtic's precision, however, was to puncture United for a third time. After 60 minutes, Larsson held up play on the right and then picked out Blinker. He moved away from Zetterlund and then bustled beyond Perry before lifting the ball over from the left for Burley to barge in another header. For the Celtic supporters, the half-hour that followed was nothing more than a delay ahead of their inevitable celebrations.

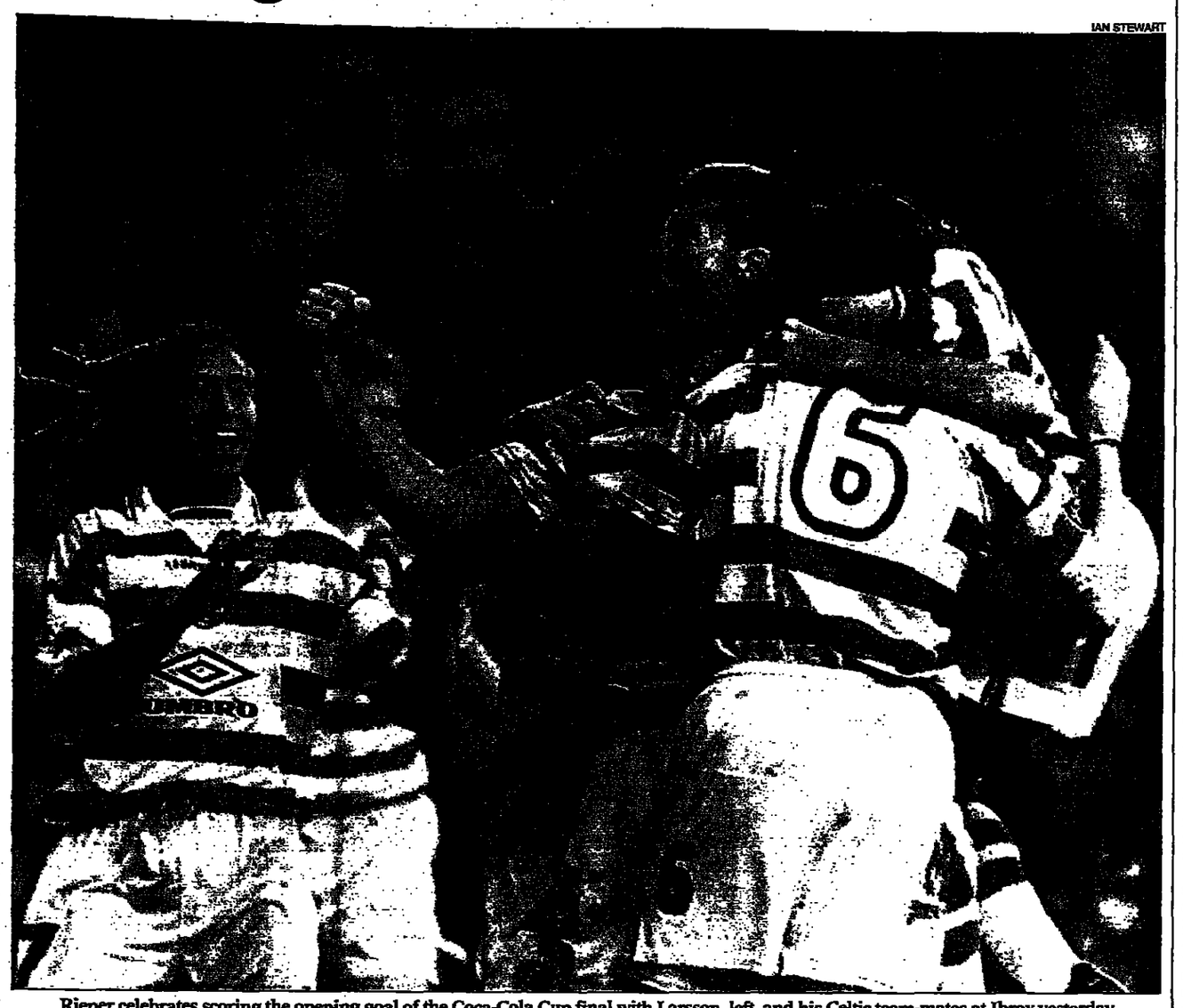
Six of the side are in their first season with the club, but they already know what is expected of them. Victory in the Coca-Cola Cup will stregthen the insistence that they now challenge even more strongly in the League. "It's very nice," Larsson said as he studied his medal yesterday evening. But the Celtic striker spoke with the restraint of a man who knows that there is much yet to be achieved.

CELTIC (3-4-3): J Gould — M Rieper, A Stubbs, T Boyd — J McNamara (sub: E Annoni, 90min), C Burley, M Wieghorst, S Mahe — A Thom (sub: S Donnelly, 80), H Larsson, P Blinker (sub: P Lambert, 88)

DUNDEE UNITED (3-5-2): S Dijkstra — S Pressley, M Malpas, M Perry — M Skoldmark (sub: G McSwegan, 56), C Easton, L Zetterlund, D Bowman, E Pedersen — R Winters, K Olofsson

Referee: J McCluskey.

IAN STEWART



Rieper celebrates scoring the opening goal of the Coca-Cola Cup final with Larsson, left, and his Celtic team-mates at Ibrox yesterday

Hayles has winning answer for faithful young fan

Bristol Rovers 2
Millwall 1

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

A YOUNG supporter, who has followed Bristol Rovers for all of 1½ years, was interviewed over the public address system a quarter of an hour before Saturday's kick-off. His forecast? A 3-0 win for his favourites.

Such innocent, youthful optimism — bound, one felt, to be cruelly dashed. Millwall had won five away games out of eight, while Rovers had already lost as many at home — and yet, the precise details of the scoreline apart, he turned out to know a thing or two.

Ian Holloway, the Rovers player-manager, is obviously a kindred spirit who had also taken no notice of Millwall's record on the road. "If you look at it like that, you drive yourself mad," he said. "I feel confident that if my boys are on top of their game, we're as good as anybody in this league. I thought Barry Hayles could get at their two centre halves."

Hayles, the forward signed in the summer from Stevenage Borough, had an unhappy first half, often caught offside, but his team reached half-time in front thanks to an early near-post Beadle header from a Penrice cross.

Pressure at the start of the second half brought Millwall a deserved equaliser, when Shaw glanced a cross from Doyle past Collett, but the visitors seemed to lose their composure as a game that had contained occasional attempts at Sumo wrestling, a bit of rugby-style play and very little constructive football, degenerated even further. With 12 minutes to go, and Holloway on as substitute, an unconvincing clearance by Spink was returned upfield for Hayles to curl in the winner.

Millwall, who finished with ten players after Law's body-check of Hayfield, remain third in the Nationwide League second division, although they probably do not care for the city of Bristol, having already lost twice to Rovers' Ashton Gate rivals.

Holloway praised the reaction of his players to his decision to leave himself on the bench. "Today, they have taken responsibility for situations instead of leaving it to me, but at times you need a little savvy and I brought some old fella on," he said.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A Collett — J Perry, A Tillson, T White, D Pritchard — J Low (sub: I Holloway, 76min), M Hayfield, P Beadle, M Lockwood — G Penrice (sub: J Alsop, 72), B Hayles

MILLWALL (4-4-2): N Spink — K Brown, A McCleary (sub: S Fitzgerald, 40), B Law, P Sturgess (sub: K Grant, 81) — M Black (sub: L Neill, 52), M Doyle, R Newman, D Savage — P Wilkinson, P Shaw.

Referee: A Hall

Unbeaten run not enough for Fry's title ambitions

Notts County 2
Peterborough United 2

BY RICHARD HOBSON

IT IS odd that a run of six matches unbeaten can constitute a blip in form. For Peterborough United, such analysis is valid. They have drawn all six, which, for promotion aspirants, is not good enough. Most worryingly for Barry Fry, the ebullient manager, his side are surrendering the lead with growing frequency.

They did so, again, on Saturday, before coming from behind. Victory would have taken them above Lincoln City to the top of the Nationwide League third division.

With four players absent, including both wingers, Fry met a Notts County side themselves challenging to return to the second division at the first opportunity, with three out-and-out strikers. A spirited, even contest ensued in torrential rain, brimful of chances with the occasional moment of genuine skill. "It had everything — good defending, bad defending, bad shooting, rubbish passing and four goals," Fry said.

Peterborough's first goal stemmed from a 35-yard free-kick by Jimmy Quinn. His low, skidding shot was parried by Ward to Carruthers and the follow-up attempt turned around for a corner. Gregory, unmarked at the far post, headed in.

Just five minutes had gone, but County, though nervous at the back, entered half-time in front. After 27 minutes, Finnan accepted a beautifully-weighted pass inside the full back by Derry with a low centre for Jones to convert. Eleven minutes later, the industrious Robson chipped Tyler from the edge of the penalty box.

Yet County were to regret three palpable chances Farrell contrived to squander. In the 57th minute, Strodder felled Gregory and Quinn struck the penalty firmly to equalise. Indeed, Quinn almost won the game in injury time with a low shot into the side-netting.

The afternoon was tarnished by a minority of supporters. Outside the ground, a menacing bunch from Peterborough rocked a fast food van close to toppling point. Inside, two youths emerged from the home section to run across the pitch in the closing minutes.

NOTTS COUNTY (3-5-2): D Ward — M Redmile, G Strodder, I Richardson — I Hendon, M Robson (sub: C Dudley, 87min), S Derry, I Baraclough, S Finnan (sub: S Robinson, 87) — S Farrell, G Jones

PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-3-3): M Tyler — D Linton, M Foran, A Edwards, A Drury — C McManamm, D Payne, N Lewis (sub: W Bullimore, 60) — J Quinn, M Carruthers, N Gregory

Referee: M Brandwood

Rangers fail to make good impression

RANGERS moved to within one point of Heart of Midlothian at the top of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, but that was the only cause for satisfaction after their laboured 3-2 victory over St Johnstone at Ibrox on Saturday.

The reigning champions looked potent enough in attack, but even the return of Richard Gough has not hidden defensive shortcomings and Andy Goram, the goalkeeper, needed to be at his best to deny St Johnstone a point.

Callum Davidson, the St Johnstone defender, who was playing his first game for two months after recovering from a hernia problem, was the only accomplished defender on view and earned lavish praise from Paul Sturrock, his manager. "Callum was a revelation. I am so pleased for him because he was magnificent and will go a long way in the game," Sturrock said.

Pat Nevin, the former Scotland midfield player, scored two goals and provided a shining example for his Kilmarnock team-mates in the 2-1 victory over Dunfermline at Rugby Park. Nevin scored two fine goals before half-time and did his best to ensure that the lead was preserved when Dunfermline pulled a goal back and then were inspired after Dave Barnett was dismissed.

"It is the old thing of playing against tenmen," Nevin said. "I was trying to tell the others to slow the game down and make them work, but we panicked and could not string passes together. All credit to Dunfermline though — they looked exhausted at the end."

Beck emerges from Ravanelli's shadow

Middlesbrough 1
West Bromwich Albion 0

BY PAT GIBSON

NOW we know why Mikkel Beck, the gifted young Denmark striker, found it so hard to come to terms with English football during Middlesbrough's unavailing struggle against relegation from the FA Carling Premiership last season. He was playing with Fabrizio Ravanelli on his back.

Beck said as much before this game and, in the 34th minute, he gave a practical demonstration of what he was talking about. When Paul Merson gave him the sort of chance that he used to blast into the stand, he took his time, waited for the goalkeeper to commit himself and then chipped the ball exquisitely over him for the goal that lifted Middlesbrough above West Bromwich Albion into second place in the Nationwide League first divison.

Such a composed finish seemed quite beyond him a year ago and Alan Miller, the goalkeeper who left Middlesbrough for West Bromwich not long afterwards, thought that he knew the reason why. "The atmosphere is so much more relaxed now that they have got the Ravanelli situation sorted out," he said, "and you could see it in Mikkel's play. He can now express himself without worrying about what other players might say."

Beck himself had been more explicit. "Ravanelli was very difficult to play with," he said. "I respected him as a goalscorer, but as the man who had to play alongside him, I just could not accept the way he talked to people, even his friends. With him out of the way and Paul Merson in his place, I am a much better player."

The point was not lost on Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager. "Merson has definitely helped him along," he said. "He has a go at him sometimes but probably in a different way from what Ravanelli did."

Indeed, Robson had every reason to be grateful for the qualities of his strikers on a day that the rest of his side looked a long way short of Premiership standard. He was without Pearson, the captain, because of a virus and lost Maddison in the fifteenth minute with a bruised shin.

When Festa did not reappear for the second half because of a back problem, he sent on Summerbell to reinforce a midfield that was being overrun. Much has been made of West Bromwich's style of playing with only one striker, but it looked anything but negative as they broke forward to create chances for Sneekes, Kilbane, Hamilton and Mardon, all of them squandered.

Robson, who began his playing career with West Bromwich, was suitably sympathetic. "There was no way that Albion deserved to lose," he said, "but that's the way it goes sometimes. If anyone had said to me a week ago that we would pick up seven points from our three games against Swindon, Nottingham Forest and West Brom, I would have settled for that."

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): M Schwarzer — N Maddison (sub: D Whyte, 16min), S Vickers, G Festa (sub: M Summerbell, 45), C Harrison — A Ormerod, Emerson, A Townsend, C Hignett — P Merson, M Beck.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-1-1): A Miller — P Holmes (sub: M Evans, 80), D Burgess, P Mardon, D Smith — S Colclough, I Hamilton, P Butler, K Kilbane — R Sneekes (sub: L Hughes, 68) — A Hunt

Referee: K Lynch

Beck: exquisite winner

Megson's lead role in episode of neighbours

Stockport County 3
Manchester City 1

BY BILL EDGAR

MUTUAL fondness between clubs, a rare concept in football, needs an absence of direct competition to flourish. Manchester City's 87-year divisional superiority over Stockport County has allowed the two clubs to keep a friendly neighbourhood watch over each other's fortunes.

Suddenly, however, their long-term good relations are facing a test. Stockport's promotion in May put them alongside City in the Nationwide League first division and results this season suggest the old hierarchy is unlikely to return in a hurry. The advent of December finds City unable to hold a candle to Stockport, whose victory on Saturday left them in seventh place while their opponents lie fourth from bottom.

"City's going down," sang the home fans, forgetting past friendships as some dismayed followers from Manchester left the ground after just half an hour with their side trailing 3-0.

Gary Megson, the Stockport manager and a City fan, was also unable to hide his feelings, leaping high and punching the air at the final whistle. "It's a great day. It meant an awful lot to me," said Megson, who helped City to consecutive fifth places in the old first division in his last two seasons as a player there between 1990 and 1992.

Stockport's ninth win in 13 League games was assured after a first half in which Paul Cook won his battle of the left feet with Georgi Kinkladze. While Kinkladze was kept quiet, Cook dominated imperiously in midfield. His sweetly-struck, left-footed volley from 30 yards put Stockport ahead after six minutes and, almost immediately, Alun Armstrong added a second after Cook's corner was not properly cleared.

City's confidence, already fragile, was destroyed by a fourteenth goal of the season from Brett Angell after 32 minutes. In one moment of comedy, Symons and Wiekens, the City centre backs, collided as they attempted to head the ball that had come their way when Edghill, their team-mate, sliced his clearance.

Ged Brannan's 30-yard shot goal over Nixon, the stranded Stockport goalkeeper, shortly after half-time, sparked an impressive but unsuccessful City comeback. Frank Clark, their manager, suggested that his players had approached the game with a superiority complex born of history. "We played in the first half as if all we had to do to win was just turn up. We were abysmal. We had enough chances in the second half to have got something from the game, but that's more than we would have deserved."

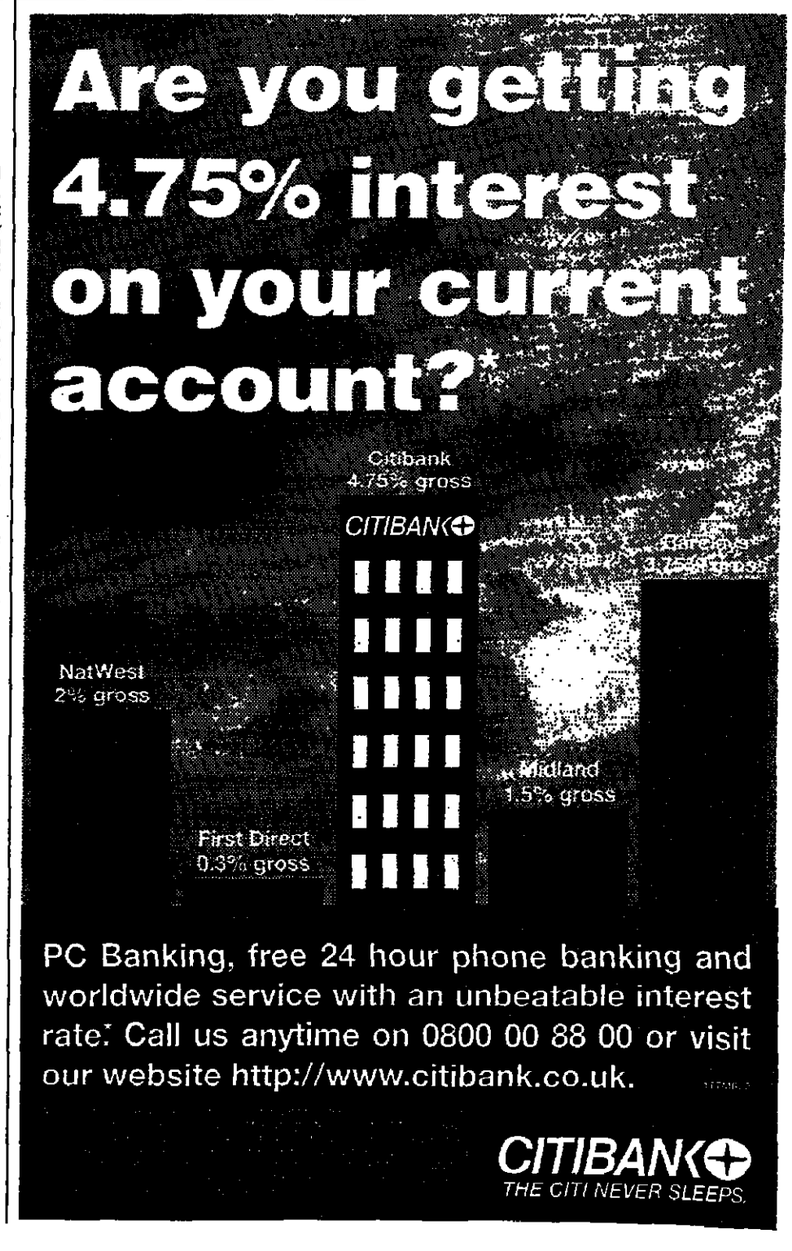
Megson described Clark in the programme as "a gentleman who always finds time for other managers". Sadly, Clark may find himself with even more time on his hands if his players do not secure his future with better displays than this.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (3-5-2): E Nixon — T Dinning, M Flynn, M McIntosh — S Connelly, J Gannon, T Bennett, P Cook (sub: C Byrne, 78min), D Searle — B Angell, A Armstrong.

MANCHESTER CITY (3-4-1-2): M Margetson — K Symons, G Wiekens, A Vaughan — R Edghill, E McGoldrick (sub: M Brown, 67), G Brannan, K Horlock — G Kinkladze — P Dickov, C Russell.

Referee: E Wolstenholme.

Clark: disappointed



Courageous Wales feel backlash of All Blacks' dissatisfaction in crushing defeat at Wembley

New Zealand conspire to raise game in anger

Wales 7
New Zealand 42

By Mark Souster

AFTER inflicting another record defeat on brave but ultimately outclassed opposition — how often have we heard that this hectic autumn? — New Zealand are ready to rouse themselves for the final time in 1997 at Twickenham. The second instalment of the England v the All Blacks saga will be their twelfth and last international of an arduous year. Signing off with a 100 per cent record will be motivation in itself; the fact that England are the quarry lends added spice to their meeting. There are scores to settle.

New Zealand and, in particular John Hart, their coach, were riled by events at Old Trafford. Speaking at Wembley on Saturday, his contempt for England's lap of honour the previous week and prematch utterances in the press were tangible. "We won pretty comprehensively last week, yet one would have thought we had lost — but the game is played on the pitch and not in the media. We want to win and want to win well at Twickenham. We have a huge challenge and the hard work starts now." Hart denies it is anything personal. Do not believe it.

Wales felt the backlash of New Zealand's anger, which was channelled into their most urgent, complete performance of the tour during a passionate and vivid occasion at Wembley in front of 75,000 supporters, the majority of whom were Welsh. Whereas the All Blacks were slow into their stride in Manchester, against Wales, whose threat they respected, they hit the ground running.

However, credit is due to Wales, who attempted to counter fire with fire and who could easily have folded in the second half. Some of the tackles in the opening quarter shook the twin towers. For once, Gibbs and Bateman came off second-best and both were hurt: Bateman was a temporary casualty. Gibbs's departure with a cut eyebrow, which required nine stitches, permament. His absence allowed Bunce and Little more freedom to roam in midfield, Little's speed and subtlety adding an extra dimension to New Zealand's game.

As if they needed it, New Zealand were assisted by Wayne Erickson, an indulgent, inconsistent referee who was harsh on Wales, but, in the first half, benevolent towards the All Blacks. Too frequently, he gave a warning rather than penalising them for standing offside at rucks and mauls. New Zealand were committing only three or four players to the breakdown, which meant that they had defence in numbers. As hard as they tried, Wales, who were true to their word in seeking to run with the ball, could not penetrate the wall. Jenkins did once, but lost possession as he dived over the line.

The Welsh defence was heroic, none more so than that of Nigel Walker. On four occasions, he brought off try-saving tackles, three on his opposite number, Jeff Wilson, as the New Zealand wing looked to beat him on the outside. Fittingly, Walker also scored Wales's try from the only pass he received.

When Wales did have possession, they did not always make the best use of it, primarily because they were forced to make decisions under extreme pressure. Howley took time to find his range: New Zealand stood their ground and used the platform for incisive counter-attacks. They roamed virtually at will, creating space wide out for Cullen and Wilson. Cullen took full advantage with a hat-trick of tries to maintain his phenomenal strike-rate.

However, Robin Brooke's was the consummate performance. Not only did he do the donkey work, he also whipped away several huge spin passes and acted as a second pivot in midfield, most memorably when his dummy and delayed pass prised Wales open for Cullen's second try. His brother, Zinzan, dropped a goal with the last kick of the match.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, spoke of his admiration. Walker summed up the Welsh mood: "We won't be doing flik-flaks in the streets of London, but we won't be passing the razor-blades around either," he said.

Howley: struggle

WEMBLEY DETAILS

SCORERS: Wales: Try: Walker (63min) Conversion: Jenkins New Zealand: Tries: Cullen 3 (20, 31, 45), Randell (4), Marshall (60). Conversions: Mehrtens 4. Penalty goals: Mehrtens 2 (8, 40) Dropped goal: Z Brooke (80)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Wales first): 0-5, 0-8, 0-15, 0-22, 0-25 (half-time), 0-32, 0-39, 7-39, 7-42.

WALES: K A Morgan (Pontypridd), G Thomas (Bridgend), A G Bateman (Richmond; rep: A C Thomas, Swansea, 37-40min), I S Gibbs (Swansea, rep. L B Davies, Cardiff, 26), N K Walker (Cardiff), N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Cardiff); C D Loader (Swansea; rep. S G John, Cardiff, 73), B H Williams (Richmond; rep J M Humphreys, Cardiff, 57), D Young (Cardiff), G O Llewellyn (Harlequins), M J Voyle (Llanelli), R C Appleyard (Swansea), R G Jones (Cardiff, captain, rep: S M Williams, Cardiff, 37-40), N Thomas (Bath, rep: Williams, 65).

NEW ZEALAND: C M Cullen (Manawatu); J W Wilson (Otago), F E Bunce (North Harbour), W K Little (North Harbour), J T Lomu (Counties); A P Mehrtens (Canterbury), J W Marshall (Canterbury); C W Dowd (Auckland), N J Hewitt (Southland; rep: S B T Fitzpatrick, Auckland, 55), O M Brown (Auckland; rep. M R Allen, Manawatu, 58), I D Jones (North Harbour), R M Brooke (Auckland), T G Randell (Otago; rep A F Blowers, Auckland, 68), J A Kronfeld (Otago), Z V Brooke (Auckland)

Referee: W J Erickson (Australia).

ALEX LIVESEY / ALLSPORT

Robin Brooke shields the ball from the Welsh challenge after climbing highest at a lineout during the New Zealand victory at Wembley

Hosts win praise for positive attitude

Rob Hughes finds the players from the valleys take defeat without rancour

Sport in all its ruthless beauty, its essence of beating the daylights out of opponents while respecting their rites and their spirit, was performed to thrilling effect at Wembley on Saturday. The 42-7 scoreline confirmed the All Black supremacy over Wales, indeed reaffirmed the unremitting southern hemisphere assault in both rugby codes this past month.

Battered as we are, our defences overun like those Cornish villages sunk beneath unprecedented downpour, it is the way we react, the manner in which we take the beatings, that tells us something about our breeding. Wales took their turn with no begrudging envy, no attempt to punch out a Kiwi from behind, no accusations seeking to mask the pain of defeat by discrediting a New Zealand team that is the best on earth, possibly among the best of all time.

Wales could not hold Christian Cullen, could not get a grip on the human eel from Manawatu whose uninhibited running from full back gave him a hat-trick of tries that, in athleticism and speed and audacity, ranks with the great performances on Wembley turf. Yet Wales triumphed too — and not just financially. From their president, Tasker Watkins, down, very few had passed this way before. They came in hope, rather than certainty, of transplanting their culture, their *Bread of Heaven*, into England's soccer citadel — and even those of us who have entered the Twin Towers a hundred times were uplifted by it.

New Zealand, still shocked by England's belligerent confrontation to the haka and by accusations that the ethos of All Black rugby is somehow coarse, breathed in the fresh air. Perhaps because Wales, like New Zealand, brings its own tribal sounds, its culture to the game, the men in red were respectful of the haka.

The All Blacks, meanwhile, had listened for half an hour to the sound of the masses, led by the London Welsh Male Voice Choir, seeping down to the bowels of the stadium and into the dressing rooms. "Fantastic!" John Hart, the New Zealand coach, enthused. "Listen to the singing, that *noise*! Those are rugby people. It's why a lot of you play the game. You'll never have a better stage to show it."

Two hours later, the rival coaches sang from mutual hymn sheets. "I've the greatest admiration for the way New Zealand play," Kevin Bowring, of Wales, said. "We wanted to play against them toe to toe, but they're obviously more used to this intensity. They severely punished our mistakes; we were at the edge of our skill levels. We will work as hard as we can towards their approach."

Hart, as delighted as he was disturbed at Old Trafford, commented: "What impressed me about the Welsh was they didn't talk the game up, they played in a positive attitude. The Welsh team was very committed, they gave it everything, but we reduced our error rate dramatically. Our forwards showed the commitment we are looking for and, as a consequence, the backs had the space."

Indeed, they revelled in the wide open spaces of Wembley, the openness in which Wales tried to respond to the spirit of Cullen. He, just one All Black with the essential pace to surprise and with a cavalier freedom that would raise any sport, is reminded again and again that he is a team player and with 21 tries in 21 internationals, he acknowledges that Robin Brooke, who made one of Saturday's tries with a breathtaking dummy and then pass, works and covers for him.

This year, New Zealand have scored 69 tries in 11 internationals, all won , including South Africa home and away. England's defence is intent on supressing the flow, but there is warning of further depression ahead in the smile with which Hart said: "We've thoroughly enjoyed Wembley, but I'm looking forward to Twickenham. I think England have tremendous players, but I can't wait for next Saturday."

Mehrtens makes most of tactical naivety

By Gerald Davies

WHAT really sets New Zealand apart from the rest of the rugby world is the ability to create time and space for players on the wider expanse of the pitch. More than any other team, they create open, uncluttered opportunities between the middle of the field and the outside touchline.

They make the pitch look like a vast plain upon which to play, while others seem so hemmed in and restricted. Gaps appear; players find the freedom to run.

Both Wilson and Lomu had the kind of opportunities with 20 metres or 30 metres to spare, which their opposite numbers can only look on with envy. Wilson, on Saturday, was the greater beneficiary.

Yet, in Nigel Walker, he met his match. As a former Olympic sprint hurdler, the Wales wing has managed to transfer his track speed on to the less firm surface. On four occasions at Wembley, Walker showed his opponent the outside space, but he had the supreme confidence to know that he would not be beaten. He shepherded and corralled Wilson in a way the great New Zealand wing had not encountered before.

Also, the Welshman gave the most conclusive evidence to the legion of doubters that his defence has always been sound. He is a fine rugby player. Why he was ignored by the Wales selecters last season remains a mystery.

The Wales performance elsewhere can be encapsulated in those useful, doughty words usually associated with performances by teams from these islands — brave, passionate, committed — but, without the elevating skill, they were ultimately doomed against the supreme talent of the All Blacks.

If this is acknowledged, the real frustration lay with Wales's naïve tactics. Obsessed with the mantra of needing to play the ball in the hands, they ignore the simple utility of kicking. From the start, they persisted in playing the ball too far and too frequently behind their own advantage line, allowing their opponents the luxury of running forward at all times. This played into New Zealand hands.

Wales needed to exert early pressure. There is no easier way to gain territorial position than to kick. They failed to do so, whereas Mehrtens, the All Blacks fly half, knew that to turn a team on its heels is the surest and most likely method of exposing a team's weaknesses.

Thus Wales assisted considerably in their own downfall by pursuing tactics that any club from the deepest backwater or most lowly division would pass by. Sheer pressure needs to be exerted in opposition territory.

Playing persistently between the two ten-metre lines is an unwise tactic, as is ignoring easy, straightforward penalty shots at goal. At 22-0 down, Wales chose to run the ball in front of the New Zealand posts. To get off zero is psychologically uplifting, if only momentarily. Wales, however, failed to make the mark. Two minutes later, as if to teach them the error of their ways, Mehrtens kicked a penalty to augment his team's lead.

Yet one had to feel that were Wales to play with such commitment as they showed here for the full 80 minutes, they will fare very well in the five nations' championship in the new year, but that, for now, is another story.

Ireland set off in the right direction

Ireland 33
Canada 11

From Karl Johnston in Dublin

PAT PARFREY, the Canada coach and a former Ireland wing, should have advised his players to carry the game to Ireland during his half-time talk at Lansdowne Road yesterday. By then, Ireland had built up a useful, though hardly unassailable, 15-6 lead. They had shown some deft touches in attack, but had often looked fragile in the face of Canadian charges.

That frailty was still evident even after Ireland had gone 33-11 ahead with seven minutes still to go. Canada, aided by a plethora of free kicks, were still capable of charging; yes, Ireland kept them out, but one wonders how the defence would have fared against stronger, more imaginative, opposition.

Still, one hopes that Brian Ashton's squad will maintain the upward progress when they play Italy in Bologna later this month. Losing becomes a habit and it is a trait that Ireland have developed over almost a decade, the occasional win over Wales and England notwithstanding.

Canada were a straightforward team, with plenty of strength and endeavour but a not very impressive finishing pattern. They had useful, bustling forwards in Rod Snow, John Hutchinson and Al Charron, while Gareth Rees orchestrated his backs well.

Yet Ireland could have won by more, for Eric Elwood succeeded with only three goal kicks from nine attempts. That apart, the fly half did some good things, but his lack of pace deprived the backs of a real thrust.

It was a good day for the St Mary's College club. Three of their players contributed a total of 20 points to the Ireland score — Kevin Nowlan scored two tries, while Conor McGuinness and Victor Costello added one apiece.

Canada's only try was scored by Mark Cardinal, who thereby repeated his effort in the 1987 World Cup against Ireland in Dunedin. That day, he and Rees scored all the Canada points; yesterday, history repeated itself.

This victory was a boost for Ireland's morale and as Pat Whelan, the manager, said, the number of injured players who should be in contention for the five nations' championship is enough to engender cautious hope.

SCORERS: Ireland: Tries: Nowlan 2 (4min, 74), McGuinness (33), Maggs (55), Costello (59). Conversion: Elwood. Penalty goals: Elwood 2 (11, 43). Canada: Try: Cardinal (45). Penalty goals: Rees 2 (9, 14).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Ireland first): 5-0, 5-3, 8-3, 8-6, 15-6 (half-time), 18-6, 18-11, 23-11, 28-11, 33-11

IRELAND: K W Nowlan (St Mary's College): D A Hickie (St Mary's College), R A J Henderson (Wasps), M C McDell (London Irish), K M Maggs (Bristol); E P Elwood (Galwegians), C D McGuinness (St Mary's College); N J Popplewell (Newcastle, captain; rep R Corrigan, Greystones, 69min), R P Nesdale (Newcastle), P S Wallace (Saracens), P S Johns (Saracens), M E O'Kelly (London Irish), D J Erskine (Sale), K Dawson (London Irish, rep E Halvey, Shannon, 73), V C P Costello (St Mary's College)

CANADA: S Stewart (Harlequins); W Stanley (Blackheath), D Loughead (Balmy Beach), R Toews (Merelorna), J Pagano (Yeomen); G Rees (Wasps, captain), J Graf (UBCOB); R Snow (Newport), M Cardinal (James Bay), R Bice (Valence d'Agen; rep: E Evans, IBM Japan, 63), J Tait (Cardiff; rep. A Healy, CCSO, 52), M James (Perpignan), M Schmid (Rotherham, rep: C McKenzie, Burnaby Lake, 71), J Hotchinson (IBM Japan), A Charron (Moseley).

Referee: C Giacomel (Italy).

Goldsmith stakes his claim for Twickenham

Cambridge University 34
Blackheath 39

By Michael Aylwin

ALL the cases have now been heard, the evidence viewed and the jury's verdict will be announced today. Cambridge University have played their final game before the team for the Varsity match is chosen and the players were privately informed of their selection yesterday.

The way in which a heavily weakened XV took the game to a near full-strength Blackheath outfit on Saturday suggested that many of the so-called understudies still had every intention of being in the line-up for Twickenham. Cambridge tore into Blackheath from the opening whistle. Nick Walne scoring a try within the first minute and two further tries seeing the students 17-0 up after only seven minutes.

Andy Goldsmith put pressure on the selectors with his bullocking performance at full back. His powerful counter-attack paved the way for Cambridge's second try and he claimed a brace for himself.

Graham Henry, the Auckland coach, was making his debut on the Blackheath coaching staff at the start of a six-week spell with the club as part of the new partnership set up between Blackheath and Auckland. He will not have been impressed by his charges' first-half performance, but there was more snap from them in the second period and their relentless forwards wore the students down to provide the platform for five second-half tries.

SCORERS: Cambridge University: Tries: Walne 2 (1, 59min), Moran (4), Goldsmith 2 (7, 33), Denney (24) Conversions: Moran 2 Blackheath: Tries: Braithwaite (10), Booth (43), Smith (47), Griffiths (52), Sharples 2 (68, 74). Conversions: Braithwaite 3. Penalty goal: Braithwaite (78).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Cambridge University first): 5-0, 12-0, 17-0, 17-5, 24-5, 29-5 (half-time), 29-12, 29-17, 29-22, 34-22, 34-29, 34-36, 34-39

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: A Goldsmith (Cundle and Homerton); * N Walne (Caerleon CS and St Catherine's), A Bidwell (Brighton Coll and Homerton), M Denney (Bedford Modern and St Edmund's), * N Hill (St Ignatius Coll, Sydney and St Edmund's); P Moran (Auckland GS and Hughes Hall), G Williams (Hinchinbrooke and Homerton); D Brandt (UCS, London and St Edmund's), R Sugden (Bradford GS and St Catharine's), P Godfrey (RGS, Worcester and St John's), A Craig (Tauranga Boys, NZ and Hughes Hall), O Slack (Bedford and St Edmund's); * M Hyde (St Ignatius Coll, Sydney and St Edmund's), J Bullock (North Bromsgrove GS and Homerton), J Codks (Newington Coll, Sydney and St Edmund's).

BLACKHEATH: J Gallagher; K Powell (rep J Penaluna, 66min), R Smith, M Tassell, M Griffiths; C Braithwaite, R Sharples; S Pope, C Ridgway, P Graham, S Shortland, D Mayhew, R McConduck, A Booth, C Wilkins.

Referee: D Chapman (Yorkshire).

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Four weeks of intense pressure starts to take toll on Woodward and brave but battered players

England stare up an All Black mountain

England 11
South Africa 29

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

DEFEAT is an insidious companion. England knew from the start that their autumn series of internationals would examine every last drop of their resources, but, at some stage, their fresh, young sides will have hoped for the glorious lift that victory brings. As the green and gold of South Africa battered at their line at Twickenham, however, the cumulative effect began to tell.

The raw edge of England's troops was exposed by the World Cup-holders on Saturday; next weekend brings the return with New Zealand and even the greatest optimist could not imagine success being plucked from the men in black. England have come thus far on enthusiasm, bravery and organisation, but, with the loss of Mike Catt, their most creative midfield spark has been extinguished.

It was significant that, in the

ENGLAND'S AUTUMN CHALLENGE

aftermath, Clive Woodward began to mention players who have not been available to him — Jeremy Guscott and Tony Underwood. Woodward, the England coach, suggested that South Africa had put their best 15 players out, whereas England were without two Lions among the backs — the injured Guscott and Underwood — Phil de Glanville, also injured, and Martin Johnson, due to suspension.

But what clearly hurt Woodward more was the inability of a XV to build a greater lead on a powerful first half-hour. At Old Trafford, England had at least found space behind the All Blacks; here, an exceptional midfield defence marshalled by Henry Honiball closed them down and the 11 points scored within 16 minutes never looked likely to be enough.

Worse, there was an indiscipline to England's play that cost them a possible three points, a yellow card for Danny Grewcock and left them less than cohesive throughout the second half.

Grewcock was guilty of punching, as was Garath Archer when a penalty in England's favour was reversed. Individuals became distracted by inconsequential confrontations, a sure sign of a team that knows defeat is imminent; in direct contrast, South Africa, once they hit the front, stepped up the tempo of their game. There was an initial uncertainty, controlled by Adrian Garvey's try on the stroke of half-time and buried by two tries within four minutes that left the writing plainly on England's wall.

Nick Mallett has turned round South Africa's fortunes wonderfully well. This was their fourth international win in as many weekends, the culture of success to which Mallett referred and which England so desperately need to establish once the year has turned. The South Africa coach has trusted his players with a 15-man game that gives ball-handlers the responsibility of seeking space rather than the physical confrontation that characterised South Africa sides of old.

Mallett has called up, at 32, a player such as Dick Muir, whose deft touches sparkled throughout; a constant probe on the England defence and whose wonderful flip-pass to Peter Rossouw was the vital ingredient in the third South Africa try. He could tell Werner Swanepoel that there is life after Joost van der Westhuizen and the young Free State scrum half rewarded him with the try that, with Percy Montgomery's touchline conversion, ensured that England had conceded more points in a home international than at any other time in their history.

Mallett also determined the change of tactical direction at half-time; while England were pondering the implications of Catt's absence, South Africa decided to carry more play through their forwards or in pursuit of Swanepoel's box kicking. The scrum half is a naturally left-sided player and his initial kicks were inaccurate, but they did have the effect of forcing decisions out of the England defence.

But England, whose lineout in Johnson's absence was poorly managed, cannot match the power generated by their southern-hemisphere opponents. There were exceptions: Neil Back was outstanding, Archer is developing rapidly and twice Will Greenwood sniffed a way through. Collectively, though, they do not possess the pumping leg action and low, driving body positions that are second nature to South Africans and New Zealanders — and which earned Garvey his try.

England's early advantage in the Nike international showed that Catt had put to the back of his mind the blues of Old Trafford: two penalty goals from around 38 metres showed as much and his third kick, the conversion of Greenstock's try in the left-hand corner, hit an upright. Greenstock had taken swift advantage of South Africa's error, Rossouw choosing to run, rather slowly, a ball out of his own 22 before Otto's pass to Teichmann was flipped up by the England centre on his race to the line.

But the gap was closed by Garvey after Catt had marginally kept out Dalton and England's leap evaporated when Snyman, with a wall of white in front of him, broke past Leonard and had enough momentum to score through Perry's tackle. That try came from a missed England clearance; the next, too, came from ball kicked away by England, though Perry's effort deserved better from the chasers.

Instead, a wonderful period of controlled rugby lasting 1min 26sec, when forwards and backs were interchangeable, allowed Andrews to score as good a team try as you will see this season. An important part of it was the strong break by Venter, who threatened to score himself after Montgomery created space from Grayson's less-than-testing kick through, only Healey's pace denying him.

Only twice did England approach the South Africa line in the second half and, on both occasions, contributed as much to their own ineffectiveness as South Africa's defence. They also conceded the free kick from which Aitken, Montgomery and Small paved the way for Swanepoel to score the fourth try.

SCORERS: England: Try: Greenstock (16min). Penalty goals: Catt 2 (7, 9) South Africa: Tries: Garvey (40), Snyman (53), Andrews (57), Swanepoel (79) Conversions: Honiball 2, Montgomery. Penalty goal: Honiball (72)

SCORING SEQUENCE (England first): 3-0, 6-0, 11-0, 11-7 (half-time), 11-14, 11-19, 11-22, 11-29

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath), J Bentley (Newcastle; rep: A S Healey, Leicester, 65min), N J J Greenstock (Wasps), W J H Greenwood (Leicester), D L Rees (Sale); M J Catt (Bath; rep: P J Grayson, Northampton, 40), M J S Dawson (Northampton); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester), D J Grewcock (Saracens: rep S D Shaw, Wasps, 69), G S Archer (Newcastle), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain), N A Back (Leicester), R A Hill (Saracens, rep: C M A Sheasby, Wasps, 58).

SOUTH AFRICA: P C Montgomery (Western Province); J T Small (Western Province), A H Snyman (Northern Transvaal), D J Muir (Western Province), P W G Rossouw (Western Province); H W Honiball (Natal), D Swanepoel (Free State). J P du Randt (Free State), J Dalton (Gauteng), A C Garvey (Natal), K Otto (Northern Transvaal), M G Andrews (Natal), A D Aitken (Western Province), A G Venter (Free State; rep: R B Skinstad, Western Province, 32-37), G H Teichmann (Natal, captain)

Referee: C J Hawke (New Zealand).

Venter, the South Africa flanker, storms through the challenges of Cockerill, left, and Catt during the England defeat at Twickenham. Photograph: Marc Aspland

MATCH FACTS: HOW THE PLAY UNFOLDED

LINEOUTS

	Award	E22	EH	SAH	SA22	Won	Run	Kick	Drive	Lost	Void
England	10	–	3	5	2	8	1	–	7	2	3
South Africa	14	3	6	5	–	13	1	–	12	1	–

Lineouts: 7 Otto; 6 Archer; 5 Andrews; 2 Dallaglio; 1 Venter
Void: 2 throw not straight; 1 knock on.

SCRUMS

	Award	E22	EH	SAH	SA22	Run	Kick	Drive	Void
England	13	3	6	2	2	3	7	3	–
South Africa	16	1	8	5	2	10	4	–	2

Reason: England: 5 knock on; 4 held up; 2 ball to ground; 2 forward pass. South Africa: 7 knock on; 4 ball to ground; 1 throw not straight; 1 held up; 1 forward pass; 1 elected; 1 carried over line.

PENALTIES

	Award	E22	EH	SAH	SA22	Run	Found touch	Miss touch	3pts	Miss	Scrum
England	9	1	4	3	1	–	7	–	2	–	–
South Africa	10	4	2	3	1	1	6	–	1	1	1

Conceded: England: 3 foul play; 3 took out the man; 1 offside; 1 over the top; 1 in front of kicker; 1 scrum offence. South Africa: 2 offside; 2 hands on floor; 1 over the top; 1 obstruction; 1 foul play; 1 crossing; 1 took out the man without the ball. There was also one free kick to South Africa - scrum offence.

KICKING RECORD

	Cons Atts	Cons Suc	Pens Atts	Pens Suc	Total Atts	Total Suc	%
M Catt	1	0	2	2	3	2	67
H Honiball	3	2	2	1	5	3	60
P Montgomery	1	1	0	0	1	1	100

Shortage of candidates for vacancy at No 10

By David Hands

THE crisis that England now face in terms of fly half selection is the most extreme example of Clive Woodward's constant theme of the damage that the leading clubs are doing to the national cause by introducing so many overseas players. With Mike Catt concussed and Alex King, of Wasps, not yet recovered from a knee injury, the national coach is in a corner.

He must send out an England A team against the New Zealanders at Leicester tomorrow and a senior XV against them at Twickenham on Saturday with only one experienced No 10 to hand — Paul Grayson. Catt spent a night in hospital after his head came in to contact with Henry Honiball's elbow in a tackle towards the end of the first half of Saturday's international and he faces the mandatory 21-day recovery period, which threatens his place in the Bath team for the Heineken Cup semi-final against Pau on December 20.

The entry of Grayson in his place forced England to recast their tactical plans, as well as revising their A XV for Leicester, where the Northampton man — who has played only three games at fly half for his club this season — was due to play. Grayson must now be held back for next Saturday's international, his place going to Richard Butland, who has spent so much time among the Bath replacements that he is seeking a transfer.

But Woodward looks in vain elsewhere in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership: Bristol (Paul Burke), Harlequins (Thierry Lacroix), Leicester (Joel Stransky), Saracens (Michael Lynagh), Richmond (Earl Va'a, Adrian Davies) and Sale (Simon Mannix) play ineligible fly halves, as do London Irish. Mark Mapletoft, of Gloucester, capped in Argentina last summer, is injured, which leaves Rob Andrew, at Newcastle, far more worthy of a recall to arms than he ever was when Jack Rowell awarded him the cheapest of caps as a replacement against Wales last March.

Though there is a crop of youngsters on the way through, not one has any worthwhile experience to speak of. Jonathan Wilkinson was due to play for England Under-21 against the New Zealand Youth XV at Newbury on Friday, but, he, too, is injured and, like James Lofthouse, at Sale, is fresh from school; James Brown, an England Colt last season, shares the position at Coventry with Jez Harris.

Coach keeps driving for change

Michael Calvin finds Clive Woodward ready to lose some friends in England's best interest

Clive Woodward spoke with a careworn candour that challenged English rugby to recognise — and respond to — the need for another revolution. He had nothing left to lose after South Africa had reaffirmed the obvious on an appropriately dank afternoon.

His astringent honesty, tinged by exasperation, marked him as a probable victim of the piecemeal embrace of professionalism. As England coach, he lives on the fault line between the panic-stricken accountants of leading clubs and the petty politicians of the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

"It's become a nightmare situation," he admitted. "There is just no structure in place. There is a huge step between first division and international rugby and we need to create a final tier, a structure above the clubs. That's not me whingeing, it's just the facts of life.

"Look around and say who is right and who is wrong. It is no coincidence that three countries — Australia, South Africa and New Zealand — have the same system. They are light years ahead of us. When I speak to them, they tell me I am almost in an impossible situation.

"I'm not talking to dummies. These are guys like John Hart [the All Blacks coach]. They're successful people, who've been there and done it, and they just shake their heads. I am passionate about getting this right and something radical has to happen if we are serious about what we are doing."

His blueprint involves extending the first division to 16 clubs and forming four regional sides, restricted to players qualified for England, to compete in the Heineken Cup. It is flawed by an essential contradiction, since it assumes that the clubs and the RFU are capable of aligning their conflicting interests.

The clubs, facing financial meltdown due to their knee-jerk response to professionalism, are by nature expedient institutions. Already beset by cashflow problems, because of the four successive England internationals, they resent outside interference.

The RFU, led by Fran Cotton and Cliff Brittle, the chairman of its management board, has an annual income of £300 million to protect. It can only assist Woodward by signing leading players to central contracts, which would threaten the independence that is essential to the long-term stability of the clubs.

By making his pitch after another illustration of the inherent superiority of Southern Hemisphere rugby, Woodward was getting his retaliation in first. The Barboured batallions have been sold on New England, just as effectively as the electorate were convinced of the concept of New Labour. But, as Downing Street will confirm, honeymoons do not last forever.

"I don't expect them to be patient," Woodward said when someone sought refuge in the fact that the support of the Twickenham crowd extended beyond a desultory chorus of *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*. "Professional sport is all about winning and we are not winning. I am not making any excuses. I knew exactly what I was walking into when I took the job."

Perhaps — but one suspects that the scale of the problem has come as a culture shock. Like Nick Mallett, the England-born coach who inherited a dispirited Springbok team in the aftermath of the last Lions tour, his priority is to establish what Mallett termed "a winning culture".

It takes, by common consent, at least ten games to become attuned to the speed and stress of the international game. Woodward's gamble in the enforced development of an inexperienced team will fail if confidence drains away. The signs are ominous.

His players were, to use his buzzword, "a bit cranky" after South Africa's unanswered onslaught. The All Blacks are unlikely to be sympathetic to their plight. Indeed, their mutterings about the consequences of disrespect at Old Trafford suggest that they are gearing themselves to inflict a devastating psychological blow at Twickenham on Saturday.

The loss of Mike Catt is a symbol of stretched resources. "We're struggling," Woodward admitted. "Say Paul Grayson gets injured. Who comes in then? You can have my phone and fax numbers if you're interested." He compiled a list of the top ten English fly halves when he took the job, but admits that "after four or five, you come to guys you've never heard of".

He has already been obliged to defy old loyalties, advising Richard Butland, the fourth choice, to seek a transfer from Bath. Woodward's former club, because he is unable to dislodge Catt from the league team. Jonathan Wilkinson, the standard-bearer for the next generation, was signed by Newcastle on his return from the England Schoolboys tour of Australia, but finds his chances restricted by Rob Andrew.

"You don't need to be a rocket scientist to work out that there is a huge problem," Woodward said. "I am just stating the obvious. It is up to the clubs if they want to sign 15 All Blacks. I need four sides, full of Englishmen, all playing at the highest level in Europe. I'm not confident that is going to happen, but I'm determined to keep saying that it needs to happen." He will, one fears, be wasting his breath.

Woodward finds plenty to think about during the England defeat

'Something radical has to happen if we are serious about what we are doing'

Not even Jason Leonard is as reliable over eighty minutes.

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Long goodbye finds Barker short of substance

MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

Those lift doors at Newbury racecourse, one suspects, will stay in Sue Barker's memory for some time. We'd seen Sir Peter O'Sullevan getting into the lift — indeed, the short walk from commentary box to lift, amid much applause and raising of hats, had provided one of the few genuinely moving moments of the afternoon — but he seemed reluctant to come out. The camera gazed at the lift doors unblinkingly. Somebody told Sue Barker to fill.

"We are now, er, waiting at the bottom of the, er, lift-shaft going up to the commentary box where Peter O'Sullevan is making his way down, for the final time, from the, er, commentary box." The doors stayed stubbornly shut. Bit more Sue, please.

Did O'Sullevan have a finger on the "doors close" button? Was there a way out that Barker didn't know about? Had he fled because he knew she'd be banging on again about what a "sad and emotional" day it must be? The camera zoomed in for a closer look at these fine, brushed metal doors . . .

"Surely it's been a very emotional afternoon for him," she said, returning to the theme with which she had begun 90 minutes earlier, when *Grandstand's* coverage of the Hennessy Gold Cup meeting got under way, "but hopefully it won't be too emotional that he won't give us a word or two to explain how is feeling at the moment." No one could say she wasn't persistent.

Eventually, however, the gods smiled upon her, the doors opened and there was O'Sullevan, his trademark tinted glasses shielding his eyes from her leopard-spot hat. Nothing, though, could shield him from her questions. "Peter, what was it like up there when you had to turn and walk away?"

He gave her the same answer that he had given when she asked the same question at Longchamp and, no doubt, would have given Des Lynam at Aintree had the Grand National gone according to plan. "It was like any other day," began the man for whom the phrase "despises a fuss" might have been invented. Seeing as this really was his last day, though, he let a little emotion slip. "People in the boxes very kindly cheered, which was very nice."

After the longest farewell season in broadcasting history, O'Sullevan's final afternoon was a magnificently British occasion. There was the reluctant hero himself. "I'm absolutely staggered with the attention that this very ordinary commentator has attracted." Then there was Richard Pitman, who, in a single hand-over, managed to be infinitely more moving than Barker. "Peter may say it's a happy day for him, but for the rest of us here it's sad, as we hand over to Peter O'Sullevan for the last time."

Being a typically British occasion, there was also a certain amount of farce. The lift doors, Barker's awkward on-the-hoof interview as she shepherded "the voice of racing" to the winner's enclosure — and things got no better there. Julian Wilson talked over some kind words from the course announcer; an elderly sponsor nearly fell off the presentation platform and, when somebody stuck a microphone in O'Sullevan's hand, he didn't make a speech but generously thanked the race sponsors.

Aware, perhaps, that these final moments had not gone quite according to plan, *Grandstand* returned to Newbury during half-time in the rugby for a replay of the Fulke Walwyn Chase, in which O'Sullevan's horse, Sounds Fyne, was running. It started at 12-1, which, as Steve Rider, with a knowing smile, said "didn't sound too good". It was good enough, though, as Jim McGrath, the new voice of BBC racing, called home a "famous victory for Sir Peter O'Sullevan". At last, a happy ending.

Our final sight of the great man was of him being joshingly accused of chicanery by Frankie Dettori. The victory, he thought, was wonderful. "But something had to be on — the 'oss hadn't run for 700 days."

Earlier, before the sentimental piano music and the warm tributes from a *Who's Who* of racing began, O'Sullevan confessed that, as ever, his only concern was calling the race right. He needn't have worried. Apart from having Carl Llewellyn on the wrong horse as he ran through the raceccard, he called it perfectly.

Whether the occasional catch in his throat was excitement or emotion, we shall probably never know, but, as the horses turned into the home straight, that unmistakeable voice began its familiar rise up the octave. Start too high and you're dead, Julian Wilson warned us earlier, but with 50 years of practice O'Sullevan knew exactly where he was going.

"Racing down to the final fence now and as they do so its Suny Bay that has forged his way into the lead . . . Suny Bay runs away with the 1997 Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup." Saturday afternoons just won't sound the same.

'The press criticism of players, even Wasim Akram, is enough to make the most worldly person blanch'

Peaks and troughs of Pakistan cricket

MICHAEL HENDERSON

If they arrange a government permit, and — no little matter, this — take an armed guard for company, enterprising tourists can hire a car in Peshawar and travel up the Khyber Pass to within five miles of the Afghan border. There, the journey ends ("No foreigners beyond this point") but it is worth taking, to enjoy the spectacular views and remember the pivotal role the Pass has played down the centuries. On the commanding heights, overlooking the road as it winds into the valley, the pale-faced foreigner will be nuzzled by mountain goats and pestered by young urchins who offer bundles of Afghan notes in return for rupees. On a good day, he might also buy a Kalashnikov, or a few pounds of hashish. Nobody bothers. This is tribal territory, where 5,000 years of history have been written in blood.

Take on trust the splendour of the views: it hardly requires a leap of the imagination. Please also believe that the abiding image of this reporter's visit was of a brat, nine or ten years old, avoiding stones thrown by the guard for persistent begging. Off he scooted down the shale bank to join his fellows in the bushes below and, with a waft of his left hand, he played an imaginary straight drive!

You can't avoid cricket in this land. All the way along the road leading to the Pass, wherever there was a spare plot of land, people improvised games. Little tots used rudimentary bats and, for wickets, tyres swung from ropes. Older boys played with rubber balls as their elders acted as fielders. There's no getting away from it. Cricket is everywhere and, to these people, means everything.

At times, it means too much. The crowd at the recent Peshawar Test hurled stones at their own players, even as they were giving West Indies a good hiding. Two years ago, a man from Lahore was set upon by spectators there for no better reason than he resembled Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, who is not popular in those lawless parts.

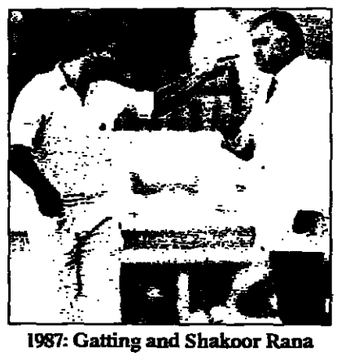
During a World Cup match in Peshawar last year, journalists and photographers were forced to protect their equipment when the crowd burst through the barriers after the police had bunked off. There are times when the officers appear to be at the ground for their own delight, so relaxed is their attitude to matters of public safety.

Two weeks ago, they were strangely absent when the spectators became restless, stirring themselves only when the West Indies players complained about the barrage of stones and fruit from the terraces. On the first day of the Test, reporters turned round with a start to see his nibs himself, the chief of police, sitting happily in the press box, and to hear him declare approvingly, upon the fall of a West Indian wicket: "Clean bowled."

Most English cricket-lovers are not familiar with the game as it exists here and many may not be curious to find out, but this is a good time to reflect on the yawning chasm between the countries. Next week, December 8 to be precise, it will be the tenth anniversary of the fateful "incident in Faisalabad".

That was the day that Mike Gatting's argument with the umpire, Shakoor Rana, led to a diplomatic war in which gunfire can still be heard. Gatting was the first casualty, indirectly, because he lost the England captaincy seven months later. Pakistan have visited England twice since then, winning both series. England have yet to return to Pakistan.

They are due to come here in 2000, by which time the wounds, inflicted by both parties, may have healed. There is no obvious animosity to England or to Englishmen and a touring party will be well looked after, in pukka hotels, even if — as the West Indies found out last week — there are places that should be scrubbed from any proposed itinerary.



1987: Gatting and Shakoor Rana

For the outsider, it is a bewildering place. Pakistan cricket is a dish of such various, conflicting ingredients and spices that you don't know whether you going to choke on a pepper or swallow a chicken. There is no place quite like it and nobody can remain indifferent to the teeming life as it swirls all around.

Nowhere, surely, is there a better place for the native to be a Test cricketer — so long as he is successful. Nowhere is there a more unforgiving place to fail. The intense rivalries of geography and politics disfigure Pakistan cricket as brightly as the players, in their more elevated moments, adorn it. The polarities of fame and infamy, glory and shame, are wider apart here than anywhere else.

The team's performance shadows this mood. Pakistan, who can draw from a deeper well of talent than anyone except Australia, lost a home series against South Africa when they were bowled out for 92, losing by 53 runs. At Peshawar, that failure was a mirage as they vanquished West Indies. Capable one day of brilliance, the next of incompetence, they chart their course by an irregular star.

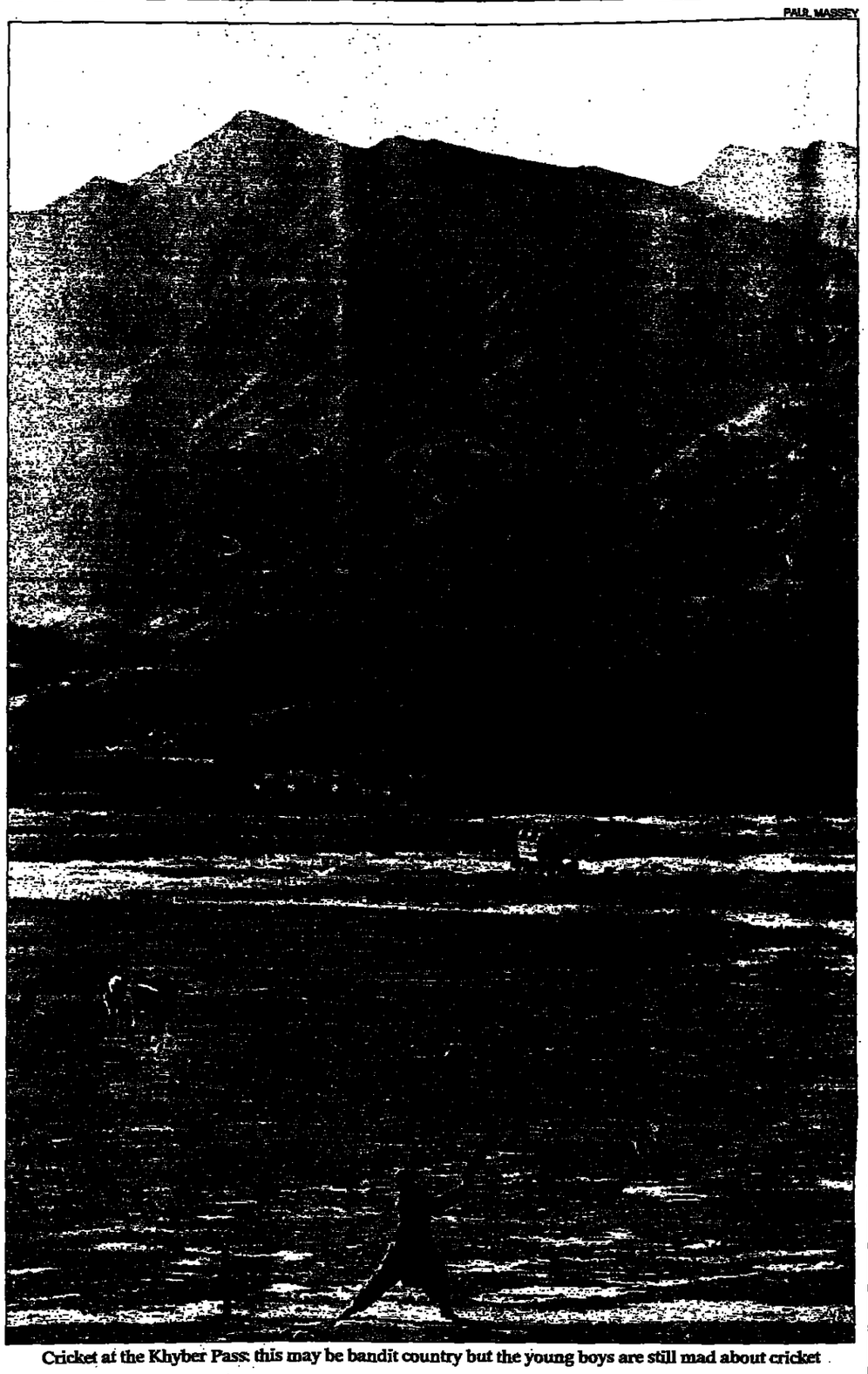
Far from uniting the nation, the victory has become a battleground for conflicting views about the team and its composition. Arshad Khan, a moderate off spinner, played at Peshawar to appease the locals and was promptly dropped. Tales abound of a "hit list" of senior players who are on the brink of demotion.

The chicanery of Pakistan cricket was revealed on the opening day of the first Test, when a selector informed Ijaz Ahmed, strictly off the record, that he was playing his last Test match. What a way to send the warrior into battle! Ijaz made 65 the next day, but the poor chap must wonder what on earth is going on.

Nobody is immune from public speculation and vilification. The press criticism of players, up to and including Wasim, one of the greatest cricketers in the history of the game, is enough to make the most worldly person blanch. Earlier this week, one indignant scribe wrote that the occasional hanging might persuade players and others tempted by bribes to think twice in future. *Encourager les autres*, indeed!

Above all, there is the hospitality and natural dignity of people who are proud, resilient and eager for visitors to enjoy their country in all its complexity and battlement. And they love their cricket, however roughly it treats them.

PAUL MASSEY



Cricket at the Khyber Pass: this may be bandit country but the young boys are still mad about cricket

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SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Reactions to the haka

From Mr Sam Simmonds

Sir, It was disappointing to read Simon Barnes expressing approval of Richard Cockerill's behaviour during the All Blacks' haka at Old Trafford. The All Blacks have been performing this ceremonial dance before internationals for as long as anyone can remember and, with very few exceptions, it is greeted with enthusiasm by the crowd and tolerance by the opposition.

If Simon Barnes thinks the enactment of this traditional war dance can be likened to spitting in people's pints or making "derisive sexual insults", then he obviously frequents a different pub to me. The haka is an integral part of the excitement and ceremony that the touring All Blacks bring with them and it would be a sad day for British rugby if they felt unable to perform it at our grounds.

If players such as Cockerill genuinely find the haka to be intimidating, I suggest they turn their back on it and concentrate on their own preparations. To stare down your opposing number while he does something he believes in is aggressive in the extreme and much more likely to invoke the spirit of war than dancing and making faces.

Yours faithfully
SAM SIMMONDS,
14 Belhus Drive,
Trigg, Perth, WA.
Sam-J-Simmonds@allsolutions.com.au

From Mr Robin England

Sir, In his article (November 26), Simon Barnes is absolutely right to reject the All Blacks' claims that the haka is just a non-intimidatory expression of their culture, entitled to compliant respect. Kevin Bowring's proposal to establish a 20-metre buffer zone at the Wembley match on Saturday was sensible.

England, at least, should develop a disciplined and positive response, a counter-haka with an English name. A calm and dignified approach could be best. For instance, the team should line up on the buffer line spread evenly across the pitch (showing command of space). Pending agreement on the buffer, seven feet short of halfway would do. This would cut out brawling and recapture the legendary defiance of King Harold to Harald Hardrada of Norway (a land akin to South Island, New Zealand) when he demanded the English Crown. The king offered Harald seven feet of English soil for a burial plot "because he is a tall man". When the offer was rejected, Harold annihilated the invading army.

The team would adopt a calm, resolute posture, gazing over their opponents' heads, visibly unmoved by their violent display. The position would be maintained for three full seconds after the haka ended, symbolising "we shall overcome".

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN ENGLAND,
34 Bowerdean Street,
London SW6.

From Mr Richard Ellis

Sir, How well and humorously Simon Barnes put the haka into context in his article. Perhaps a few more players will now be encouraged to "do a Campese" when the All Blacks begin their capering.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ELLIS,
65 Mill Lane,
Fordham, Ely,
Cambridgeshire.

From Mr Mike Claughton

Sir, The confrontational and allegedly "disrespectful" attitude adopted by certain England players during the All Blacks' haka at Old Trafford put me in mind of what was probably the greatest match a New Zealand touring team has ever played, namely the 1973 classic against the Barbarians at the Arms Park in Cardiff.

On that never-to-be-forgotten occasion, the All Blacks lined up across the halfway line, behind the great Sid Going, who led the pre-match challenge, actually facing the crowd. The Barbarians kept a respectful distance, as did the New Zealanders, and the crowd duly responded with a mighty cheer after the customary leap at the end of the haka. At no time was there ever any threat of confrontation or insulting behaviour.

In recent years, however, the manner in which the All Blacks have performed the haka has been infinitely more unsavoury: eyeballing and glowering at the opposition, getting ever closer and closer with what appears to be the clear purpose of intimidation.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN RILEY,
24 Regents Park Close,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham.

Avoiding dilution of the Cola-Cola Cup

From Mr Steve Corbett

Sir, It is disappointing to see some FA Carling Premiership clubs putting out weakened teams in this year's Coca-Cola Cup, but at the same time understandable, given the loss of the Uefa Cup place, that some clubs do not rate the competition as a priority.

Assuming that the Football League is successful in regaining the European place taken away through no fault of its own, perhaps one way to ensure that clubs field their strongest sides would be to help our clubs competing in the European club competitions even further. This could be achieved by offering them a one-year exemption without penalty from the Coca-Cola Cup if they are competing in Europe. The proviso would be that if they do enter the League Cup, then a full team would be demanded. This would allow clubs to determine their own personal priorities without devaluing the competition. However, losing early in Europe, when they had already temporarily withdrawn from the Coca-Cola (as Arsenal did this year) would mean that they had removed one of their routes into the following year's European competitions. The choice would be their own.

Yours sincerely,
STEVE CORBETT,
1 Chelsea Court,
54 Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey.

Lap of dishonour

From Mr Martin Riley

Sir, Despite England's superb performance against the All Blacks at Old Trafford, the scenes after the match worry me. The fact of the matter is that we got beaten comprehensively by three tries to one. That does not merit a lap of honour. I know that the team wanted to thank the crowd, but that could have been done with a quick wave from the centre of the pitch — not a lap of honour with *Land of Hope and Glory* blasting from the loudspeakers. At that point, I'm afraid I just left the ground with embarrassment.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN RILEY,
24 Regents Park Close,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham.

From Mr John Bradley

Sir, Perhaps the best response to the haka is a spot of morris dancing.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRADLEY,
28 Tonsley Road,
London SW18.

Norman Hewitt's exhibition was a classic example.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE CLAUGHTON,
Wisden,
29 Maidstone Road,
Ashford, Kent.

School and country rugby

From Mr Barrie Lloyd

Sir, Gerald Davies writing about the fine rugby tradition of Llandovery (Sport in Schools, November 24), and of the 40 players from Llandovery who have won senior international rugby honours for Wales, says that it is improbable that any school can have had so many of its former pupils play rugby for their country.

The record of Fettes exceeds even that of Llandovery. Fettes has produced, so far, 64 rugby internationals of whom 59 have played for Scotland (14 Scotland caps since the end of the Second World War), 4 for England and one for Ireland. The record is underpinned at the level of the Oxford and Cambridge University rugby match. 55 Fettesians have gained rugby Blues, 15 since 1945.

Although the otherwise successful co-educational policy of Fettes has diminished its rugby prowess in recent years, it continues to employ a highly skilled coaching staff and its rugby tradition remains alive.

Yours faithfully,
BARRIE LLOYD,
4 Beechlawn,
Guildford, Surrey.

This week in THE TIMES

■ **Tomorrow**
Will Glenn Hoddle's England football team be among the seeds for the 1998 World Cup finals in France? Oliver Holt states the case.

■ **Wednesday**
Formula One motor racing unveils a new team. Who will run it?

■ **Friday**
French connection: who have England and Scotland drawn in the World Cup's opening stage?

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match, Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Formation dancers take on the world in Munich

Recognition by the Olympic authorities gives dancing a boost, says Ruth Gledhill

SPORT FOR ALL

PAUL COUSANS

The Atack dancers in competition in Blackpool. Formation dance routines have been specially prepared to face the European competitors in the world championships

Britain's top formation dance sport team flies out to Germany next week to compete in the world formation dance sport championships in Munich.

The 16 athletes and two reserves in the team, trained by Carol Atack and her husband Nick at their large ballroom in a former bus garage in Preston, will take on 24 Latin formation teams.

The championships come as acceptance of ballroom dancing as a legitimate sport is growing. Formation dancing, alongside the straightforward Latin and standard disciplines, has been granted Olympic recognition and could feature in the Olympic Games as early as 2004.

Marie Siggins, a registered nurse who has been in the Atack team for 15 years and will dance with Gary Woods in Munich, said: "Formation dancing is brilliant, it is all about teamwork. You have to be athletic and fit to do this sport, the men must have a good physique. It is like running the marathon in five minutes. The men must be able to lift the girls, the girls must be able to do the splits and the wiggles."

Routines have been specially prepared to take on the European challenge. The more staid English style has been dropped in favour of a fast continental routine based on the theme from *Evita* and choreographed with the help of the Latin dance champion Goran Nordin who, with his wife Nicola, took third place in the professional Latin in last month's ... championships at Blackpool.

A samba, slow rumba, energetic cha-cha, jive and a strong paso doble with another rumba and samba have been segued together, with solo work. "bum twizzles", where the man spins the woman on her bottom, a "scale", where the dancers move in an ascending or descending arc, and a "trade", where they exchange partners, spun in for effect.

The aim is to combine complex and challenging routines with unity, technique, athletic ability, style and glamour. "It is eight couples dancing as one," said Mrs Atack, whose fundraising ball in Blackpool last week helped to raise about £500. "It is being part of a team, part of a family."

The Atack team, aged from ... and varying in height from 5ft to 6ft 3in, have struggled, with no sponsorship or outside help, to fund the flight, hotel, costume and training expenses. All are either students or work full-time, but fit in at least ten hours of dance training a week, on top of stamina-building exercises.

On December 13 they will face dancers in the top teams who can devote themselves almost full-time to the sport. The immaculately turned out continental teams travel with trainers, manicurists, beauticians and sports therapists, sponsored by companies.

Competition for a place in the teams is so intense that some establishments, such as Germany's world-beating Bremerhaven and Aachen, can run two or even three teams simultaneously. Coaches have so many dancers to choose from that they can pick dancers who look alike.

If chosen, the rewards are high. Dancers can become television sports stars, and lucrative careers as professional coaches beckon. In Britain, the birthplace of formation dancing in the 1930s, the sport has become a poor relation. From a postwar boom when more than 20 teams competed at the annual open British championships, there are now a handful of teams on the competitive circuit. Some had virtually written the sport off until the news in September that dance sport had been granted full Olympic recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

Members of the Atack dance sport team going through their paces at rehearsal in Preston

Mrs Atack, whose team won the open British championship earlier this year, says there are signs of a renewed interest from youngsters hungry for an Olympic gold.

One dancer is at university before joining the RAF. Another, Mrs Atack's son Wesley, 20, who will be dancing with Debbie Briggs, plays American football when he is not on the dance floor or studying at Leeds University.

"We did not do very well in the European championships," he said. "We were dancing a British style and that has become old-fashioned. Now we have changed it to a more European style. It is livelier, more athletic, with more show and enjoyment. There are lifts and a lot of spins. The hardest part is making sure that everyone is doing the same thing at the same time."

Technically, there is no reason why Britain could not reign supreme in formation dancing. Ken Bateman, a coach who heads the Formation Teachers' Guild, and whose adult team won the open British championships three times in the 1960s, said: "The teams in Europe are better sponsored, and don't have to worry about money for travel or clothes. But we think the Olympic factor might make a difference.

"There are about 30 junior teams going strong. If these youngsters can be given some incentive to continue dancing when they turn 16, the situation might improve."

● Carol Atack: 01772 254161; Formation Teachers' Guild: 01753 520003

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

If they defend badly, you've still got to take advantage of it. Sandra Landy did so on this hand, from the match between Britain and Italy in the 1997 Generali European Championship. The British team won the European but lost to China in the quarter-finals of the Venice Cup (the women's world championship).

Dealer North — Love all — IMPs

North: ♠K Q 4 ♥8 4 3 ♦J 7 ♣A K Q 9 7

West: ♠A 8 7 6 ♥K 6 5 ♦K 5 ♣8 6 4 2

East: ♠10 2 ♥Q 7 ♦A 10 9 8 6 4 3 ♣J 5

South: ♠J 9 5 3 ♥A J 10 9 2 ♦Q 2 ♣10 3

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of spades

After Handley opened One Club on the North hand, East passed. Most players would bid a pre-emptive Three Diamonds, which would have given South an awkward call. With a free run North-South then bid over-aggressively to Four Hearts, a contract which objectively has little chance. However, it was improved when West started with ace and another spade, won in dummy with East playing high-low.

Clearly declarer (Landy) had to try to get her diamonds away before letting the defence in with a trump, so she continued with three top clubs. East ruffed the third round small, Landy overruffed, cashed the ace of hearts and crossed to dummy with a spade. When that stood up she was able to discard a diamond on the fourth club before playing a trump, and all the defence got were a spade, heart and diamond.

Even after the poor start to the defence, do you see how East could have defeated the contract? If she ruffs the third club with the queen of hearts declarer has no answer. If she overruffs the best she can do is play trumps, allowing the defence to take a trump and two diamonds for one off. If she overruffs and plays a spade East gets a ruff and is able to cash two diamonds — the contract is two off. And discarding on the queen of hearts is also one off.

□ *The Times Book of Bridge 1*, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B.T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Dynamic duo

The powerful tournament in Belgrade has ended in a clear success for Vassily Ivanchuk, the Ukrainian grandmaster, and Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster. Anand will have been particularly pleased since he won his individual game against Vladimir Kramnik, of Russia, widely believed to be the most likely challenger to Kasparov's championship title.

Indeed, Kramnik's performance at Belgrade was unimpressive and he subsequently threatened to withdraw from the Fide (World Chess Federation) version of the world championship to be played in December and January.

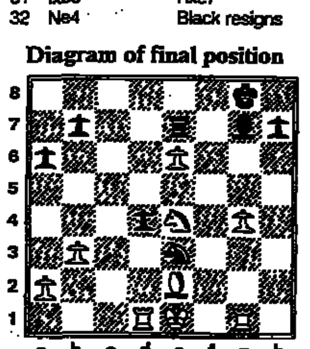
In the following game Ivanchuk exploits a space advantage to squeeze to death the Bulgarian grandmaster Kiril Georgiev.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Kiril Georgiev
Belgrade, November 1997

English Opening

1	c4	e5
2	Nf3	g6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nc6
5	e4	Nf6
6	Nc3	d6
7	f3	Nxd4
8	Qxd4	Bg7
9	Be3	0-0
10	Qd2	Be6
11	Rc1	Qa5
12	b3	Rfc8
13	Be2	a6
14	Na4	Qxd2+
15	Kxd2	Nd7
16	g4	f5
17	exf5	gxf5
18	h3	Rf8
19	f4	Nf6
20	Rhg1	Rad8
21	Bb6	Rc8
22	Nc3	Rc6
23	Be3	fxg4
24	hxg4	d5
25	f5	Rd8
26	Ke1	d4
27	Rd1	Rcd6
28	c5	Nd5
29	cxd6	Nxe3
30	dxe7	Re8
31	bxe6	Rxe7
32	Ne4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Belgrade final crosstable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts
1 Ivanchuk	*	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	6
2 Anand	½	*	½	0	½	1	½	1	1	1	6
3 Shirov	½	½	*	½	1	½	0	1	½	1	5½
4 Lautier	½	1	½	*	0	½	1	½	½	½	5
5 Gelfand	½	½	0	1	*	½	½	½	½	1	5
6 Kramnik	½	0	½	½	½	*	1	½	½	1	5
7 Beliavsky	0	½	1	0	½	0	*	½	1	1	4½
8 Georgiev	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	*	½	1	3½
9 Ljubojevic	½	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	*	0	3
10 Kovacevic	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	1	*	1½

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ASHPLANT
a. An ash bucket
b. To flog
c. Mistletoe

EXODONTIA
a. Esther Rantzen teeth
b. Extraction of teeth
c. Going out of one's way

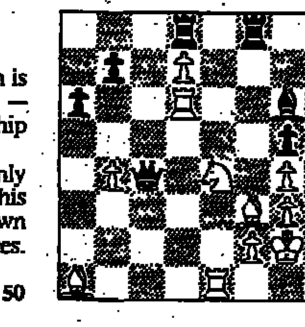
GONGORA
a. A sexual disease
b. A lizard
c. An orchid

COMITADJI
a. Comradeship
b. A partisan
c. A male companion

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Speelman — Martin, British championship 1982.

Although White has only two pieces for his queen, his active play and passed pawn on d7 give him all the chances. How did he now finish off?

Solution on page 50

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

No 005751 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF IC INSURANCE LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 14 November 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £75,000,000 to £20,000,000 by returning capital which is in excess of the wants of the Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 10th day of December 1997.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 28th day of November 1997.
LINKLATERS & PAINES (DTL)
One Silk Street
London EC2Y 8HQ
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

WILSON PARKING (PTY) LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the joint liquidators of the above named company intend to declare and distribute a first dividend to creditors within the period of four months from the last date for proving mentioned below.
Every person claiming to be a creditor of the above named company is required, on or before 5 January 1998, which is the last date for proving, to submit his proof of debt to the Joint Liquidator of the above named company at Deloitte & Touche, Stonecutter Court, 1 Stonecutter Street, London EC4A 4TR and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidator to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt before the last date for proving mentioned above is not entitled to disturb, by reason that he has not participated in the dividend, the distribution of that dividend or any other dividend declared before his debt is proved.
N G Atkinson, Joint Liquidator
Dated this 27th November 1997

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF JAMES WARREN HOLDINGS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is our intention to declare a First dividend to Unsecured creditors of the above-named Company no later than 19 November 1997. Creditors who have not yet done so are required, on or before 24 December 1997, to send their proof of debt to Edward Klempka and David James Waterhouse of Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP, the Joint Liquidators of the Company and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend.
Dated November 25 1997
Edward Klempka and David James Waterhouse Joint Liquidators.
NOTE: This dividend is expected to be in the region of 25%

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No 005796 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TRINITY PHARMACEUTICALS HOLDINGS LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 28 November 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above-named Company from £5,458,000 to £358,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 10th December 1997.
Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated 1 December 1997
Halliwell Landau
St James' Court
Brown Street
Manchester M2 2JF
Tel: 0161 835 3003
Fax: 0161 835 2994
DX: MDX 14317

IBEX TRADING COMPANY LIMITED - IN LIQUIDATION FORMERLY TRADING AS ALPINE (DOUBLE GLAZING) COMPANY LIMITED FROM PREMISES AT HONEYPOT LANE, KINGSBURY, LONDON NW9 AND FROM UNITS 98/2, 95/6 AND BT116/2 TANFIELD LEA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE COUNTY DURHAM.
I refer to my appointment as Liquidator of the above company on 19 October 1994.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to me by 17 December 1997. Joint Administrators were appointed to the company on 8 August 1991 and the business and assets of the company were sold on 1 February 1992. Please note that only amounts outstanding as at the date of the appointment of the Administrators, 8 August 1991, are provable in the liquidation and any amounts subsequent to 2 February 1992 and are the responsibility of the purchasing company and are not provable in this liquidation.
All debts and claims should be sent to me at 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given and the remaining funds in hand will be distributed.
A P Supperstone, Liquidator.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF YORKGREEN INVESTMENTS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is our intention to declare a First dividend to Unsecured creditors of the above-named Company no later than 19 November 1997. Creditors who have not yet done so are required, on or before 24 December 1997, to send their proofs of debt to Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore of Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP, the Joint Liquidators of the Company and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend.
Dated November 25 1997
Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore Joint Liquidators
NOTE: This dividend is expected to be in the region of 42%

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF WAYNE
97-732329 CK 10/08/97
JUDGE DALTON A ROBERSON
NBD BANK
VS.
RULA ENTERPRISES LLC
NBD Bank,
a Michigan Banking Corporation, Plaintiff
v.
RULA ENTERPRISES, LLC, RIAD FILIP BETAO, KAIS YACOUB PATTA, KHALDOON RABAN AND MAZIN GABBARA, jointly and severally, Defendants
HENRY J. SHYMANSKI (P34643)
Attorney for Plaintiff
611 Woodward Avenue
P.O. Box 331789
Detroit, MI 48232-7789
(313) 225-3748XX PARTS
ORDER
ISSUING SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY MAILING
At a session of said Court held this 21st day of November 1997
Having reviewed Plaintiff's Petition for Substituted Service by Mailing,
IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff NBD Bank serve the Summons and Complaint to Defendant by sending a copy of the Summons and Complaint to 25591 Briar Drive, Oak Park, Michigan, by posting the Summons and Complaint at said address, and by publication in a newspaper in London, England and Detroit, Michigan.
Hon. Dalton A Roberson
Circuit Court Judge

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
H. REALISATIONS (SCUNTHORPE) LIMITED
formerly HAVENTRAIL LIMITED
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)
In order to formally establish the claims of creditors against the Company notice is also hereby given that the creditors of the Company are required on or before 24 December 1997 to send in writing their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore of Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP, the Joint Liquidators of the said Company.
If so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidators, such creditors, either personally or by their Solicitors shall attend at such time and place their debts and claims. In default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. A proof of debt is a document stating the amount of the creditor's claim and (subject to Rule 4.76 of the Insolvency Rules 1986) may be in any form.
Dated November 25 1997
Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore Joint Liquidators

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF H. REALISATIONS (SCUNTHORPE) LIMITED formerly HAVENTRAIL LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is our intention to declare a First dividend to Unsecured creditors of the above-named Company no later than 19 November 1997. Creditors who have not yet done so are required, on or before 24 December 1997, to send their proofs of debt to Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore of Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP, the Joint Liquidators of the Company and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend.
Dated November 25 1997
Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore Joint Liquidators
NOTE: This dividend is expected to be in the region of 100%

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No 005795 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TRINITY PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 28 November 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above-named Company from £7,000,000 to £1,897,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 10th December 1997.
Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated 1 December 1997
Halliwell Landau
St James' Court
Brown Street
Manchester M2 2JF
Tel: 0161 835 3003
Fax: 0161 835 2994
DX: MDX 14317

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
YORKGREEN INVESTMENTS LIMITED
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)
In order to formally establish the claims of creditors against the Company notice is also hereby given that the creditors of the Company are required on or before 24 December 1997 to send in writing their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore of Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP, the Joint Liquidators of the said Company.
If so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Solicitors, such creditors, either personally or by their Solicitors shall attend at such time and place as shall be specified by the Joint Liquidators to prove their debts and claims. In default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. A proof of debt is a document stating the amount of the creditor's claim and (subject to Rule 4.76 of the Insolvency Rules 1986) may be in any form.
Dated November 25 1997
Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore Joint Liquidators

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STRELLA GROUP LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
A meeting of the creditors of Strella Group Limited is to be held at Price Waterhouse, Victoria House, 76 Milton Street, Nottingham, NG1 3QY on 2 December 1997 at 10:00 am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0115 947 3000) and ask for M Prangley.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
RJ Rees
Joint administrative receiver
7 November 1997

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
JAMES WARREN HOLDINGS LIMITED
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)
In order to formally establish the claims of creditors against the Company notice is also hereby given that the creditors of the Company are required on or before 24 December 1997 to send in writing their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to Edward Klempka and David James Waterhouse of Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP, the Joint Liquidators of the said Company.
If so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidators, such creditors, either personally or by their Solicitors shall attend at such time and place as shall be specified by the Joint Liquidators to prove their debts and claims. In default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. A proof of debt is a document stating the amount of the creditor's claim and (subject to Rule 4.76 of the Insolvency Rules 1986) may be in any form.
Dated November 25 1997
Edward Klempka and David James Waterhouse Joint Liquidators

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
O.A. REALISATIONS LIMITED
t/a OSMOND AEROSOLS
formerly OSMOND AEROSOLS LIMITED
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)
In order to formally establish the claims of creditors against the Company notice is also hereby given that the creditors of the Company are required on or before 24 December 1997 to send in writing their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore of Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP, the Joint Liquidators of the said Company.
If so required by notice, in writing from the said Joint Liquidators, such creditors, either personally or by their Solicitors shall attend at such time and place as shall be specified by the Joint Liquidators to prove their debts and claims. In default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. A proof of debt is a document stating the amount of the creditor's claim and (subject to Rule 4.76 of the Insolvency Rules) may be in any form.
Dated November 25 1997
Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore Joint Liquidators.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF O.A. REALISATIONS LIMITED t/a OSMOND AEROSOLS formerly OSMOND AEROSOLS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is our intention to declare a Third dividend to Unsecured creditors of the above-named Company no later than 19 November 1997. Creditors who have not yet done so are required, on or before 24 December 1997, to send their proof of debt to Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore of Cork Gully, Benson House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP, the Joint Liquidators of the Company and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend.
Dated November 25 1997
Edward Klempka and Michael Joseph Moore Joint Liquidators.
NOTE: This dividend is expected to be in the region of 3%

Paul Standbridge, Toshiba's new skipper, puts faith in his crew in the Whitbread Round the World Race

Ice left us shaken but undeterred

Standbridge: long-term game

Despite being the new skipper of *Toshiba*, I decided to hand over the starting sequence, as we set out from Cape Town to Fremantle on the second leg of the Whitbread, to Ross Macdonald on the helm, Stevie Cotton doing tactics and Andrew Cape navigating. They are world champions in their fields and I knew we would be in safe hands.

My only brief was that we had a clean, safe start. In the event, we emerged from the short circuit round Table Bay in third place. Lawrie Smith, on *Silk Cut*, led us to windward up the Sea Point shoreline, while Gunnar Krantz, on *Swedish Match*, took his now famous offshore option. We thought about it, but chose to stay in contact with Smith and the rest of the fleet.

By the time we were in Llandudno Bay, it had become incredibly frustrating. The wind had reduced to zero, while *Swedish Match*, the eventual leg winner, sailed off over the horizon. For the rest of us, the wind did not fill in until dusk, when *Toshiba* had fallen into her all too familiar sixth place.

Our big tactic was to go south as quickly as possible for stronger, westerly winds. I am sure the whole fleet had this in mind, but there are degrees to which one can push it, depending on the wind shifts. At this point, the six-hourly position schedules were misleading, since anyone heading east appeared closer to Australia, while those, like us, heading south seemed to be worse off. For a long time, *Toshiba* remained in seventh or even eighth position, but we were playing a long-term game.

After *Swedish Match*, the next to get away was Knut Frostad's *Innovation Kvaerner*. She chose to head to the extreme western side of the course, which, again from our weather data, appeared advantageous for a long-term gain, but we decided to let her go in order to remain in touch with the rest of the fleet as we continued to pursue our southerly goal.

Our first gear failure came when the block for the topmast backstay broke while we were carrying a masthead spinnaker in 30 knots of breeze. When it went, it hit Dave Blanchfield in the backside, causing him severe pain and me near heart failure. We hit the martin breaker, which releases the spinnaker, and then dropped the sail to save the topmast while we carried out repairs.

The Roaring Forties were a disappointment for the first half of the leg. It was not until we got to 50 degrees south and the Kerguelen Islands that we tasted our first full gale. Our storm spinnaker lasted only 45 minutes before it was ripped to shreds. The next smallest spinnaker met a similar fate, so we were reduced to our jibtop as our heavy air and running sail.

For four days, we had 30 knots of wind with frequent snow squalls of up to 45 knots, with waves of sixty feet plus. We averaged 18 knots and often reached speeds of 25 knots as we surfed across the frozen wastes of the Southern Ocean.

We kept a constant radar watch for icebergs, knowing that only the bigger ones would show up, leaving us to take our chances with smaller, largely submerged ones. This makes for some fearful night sailing. The hard-running waves had taken out our pulpit, pushpit and half the stanchions, which left the boat a precarious platform on which to work.

During one of the spinnaker sets, we lost control and David Allen was washed along the deck to the length of his lifeline. He hit the jockey pole and cracked four ribs. In agony, he managed to struggle back to the cockpit where we helped him below and put him on painkillers. He was inactive for the rest of the leg.

Our first landfall after Cape Point was Rottnest Island, 4,600 miles down the track, and our spirits were high as we entered Fremantle harbour and crossed the finish line in third place.

Planning to kill off the natural flow

Brian Clarke says that government housing schemes will bring death and destruction to angling territory

Beautiful fishing waters, such as this one in Devon, will be threatened by plans to build another 2.2 million homes

The Government's announcement that it is to sanction 2.2 million houses on the green belt and farmland in the next 20 years — the equivalent of 100-plus sizeable new towns — has appalled environmentalists and all those who love furred and feathered things.

It should — it seems almost trivial to mention it, given the scale of the assault — appal all anglers because of the great unanswered question that lies at the announcement's heart.

We all know where the land for the houses will be found because we have been told. It will be found in every nook and cranny of the country. Tiny Rutland will get 2,000 new houses, faraway Devon will get 99,000, the equivalent of four new towns.

What no one has been told is where the water for these developments will come from. There has been no mention of that from the Government. There has been no mention of it from the Environment Agency. There has been no mention of it from the water companies.

However, I can reveal where much of the water will come from. It will come from our rivers and lakes. It will be pumped directly from some and it will be sucked up from the ground that gives rise to the springs that feed others.

And what will happen when the water is taken? Our rivers and lakes, already dying of thirst thanks to climate change and overabstraction, will shrink further. And what will happen when they shrink? The conditions on which all water life — and the sport of angling — depend, will alter.

Habitat will be lost to water plants and insects. Spawning grounds for all kinds of fishes will become dried out or filtered. As a result, fish populations of the future will be smaller. The loss of plants and insects will reduce present fish populations as competition and starvation take their toll.

Nearly all of this loss will occur out of sight, mind and knowing of the average citizen. It will all be in addition to the loss of the cuddly things that attract most public sympathy and before the resulting loss of the water life that does attract general concern — pretty things like kingfishers and water voles — becomes apparent.

There is more. It is not just that five or six million new country-dwellers will need to be provided with water; they will need services, too. They will need car parks and supermarkets, health centres and bowling alleys. These huge, new concreted and built-up square-mileages will prevent any rain that does fall from seeping into the ground. The result, as the Anglers' Conservation Association is warning, will need large-scale, instant run-off channelled down gutters and pipes and culverts.

This water will all be rushed into the hard, parched beds of drought-stricken, abstracted rivers — with unknown consequences for water creatures. Where river beds have become colonised by plants because the water has fallen, flood-defence teams will move in to deepen them and avert overflowing. And so more habitat for plants and insects and fish will be dug up and destroyed.

The precedents are everywhere around us. Not long ago, I drove from my home in the South to the North. While there, I visited the places that I fished as a boy. The spot on the little River Skerne, in Darlington, where, short-trousered and wide-eyed, I caught dazzling sticklebacks under a cork from a bottle has gone. The rushed banks are under feet-thick concrete, the waltzing eddies are in a concreted conduit carrying a wide road. The place on the Tees where I caught my first proper fish has been dragged out and deepened.

The road north took me past the Newbury bypass. It slices through a reach of the Kennet where, not so many years ago, I netted a Kennet greenback trout weighing 5lb 3oz for a friend. On the upper Kennet, a river ruined by abstraction to meet ever-more development, I found a trout and a pike gasping side by side in a tiny pool cut off from the main flow. Predator and prey were bent only on survival, ignoring one another completely, facing — until I rescued them — certain death under the blazing sun.

Letters complaining about the havoc being wrought on our rivers and lakes by the road schemes and building programmes arrive regularly at this office from angling readers. A letter from one, written a couple of weeks ago from South Leigh, in Oxfordshire, is typical. It highlighted the damage being done to the once-wonderful Windrush by overabstraction. The letter, understandably, is couched in terms of outrage and incredulity.

Alas, shameful though the plundering of the Windrush is, the reality is that rivers and aquifers everywhere are being pumped at a level far beyond that of the water resource to sustain it. Many wonderful schemes are mooted to alleviate the long-term problems, among them water grids that would carry supplies from areas of surplus to areas of need. Those who place confidence in such artificial schemes might care to note what happened recently to the little River Darent, in Kent.

This chalk stream was so abstracted a few years ago that it dried up completely. A plan was drawn up to pump water from a series of specially sunk boreholes to help to restore flow. It worked partially, for a while. Then, in the middle of some technical work on the river a few weeks ago, the Environment Agency team responsible for the task apparently ran out of budget. For three days, three of the pumps were switched off to save cash.

The remaining pumps proved unable to sustain an adequate flow and, over parts of its length, the Darent all but dried up. There was a colossal loss of invertebrate life and significant loss of fish life.

So, it seems, not even the most visible and public efforts to alleviate a water problem can be trusted. The Government's building plans pose a threat not only to green belt and farmland. They pose an immense threat to our shrinking supplies of ground water, to our rivers and lakes and much life within them. This is going to be true regardless of what we are eventually told. It is all a dead — a very dead — certainty.

Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

Youngsters need to pursue variety of sporting skills

By John Goodbody

To achieve distinction in a sport as an adult, should youngsters concentrate on that activity virtually to the exclusion of all others? Or should they enjoy an all-round physical education, only gradually focusing on their chosen speciality?

As top-class sport becomes increasingly competitive, this dilemma is confronting youngsters, their parents, coaches and schoolteachers. Even in swimming and gymnastics, where the sports demand early expertise, PE teachers are often insisting, with much justification, that other sport should be practised in formative years.

In squash, as with most activities, maturity is vital. Jonah Barrington, the most celebrated Briton in the sport, insists: "For the majority of players, specialisation of players too early is very often counter-productive. I know there is an argument that technique should be in place by 13 years of age, but I just don't agree with it. I believe in a good all-round sports education for a young squash player."

Barrington believes that PE and sport should reflect academic work, with youngsters taking a wide variety of GCSEs, then three or four A-levels and only specialising in one subject at university. His own squash coach, Nazrullah Khan, one of the most distinguished names in the history of the sport, who was all-India tennis champion, who had simultaneous supreme skill at squash.

After a recession in interest in the 1980s, squash is now gaining in popularity amongst youngsters, with schools and clubs working to develop the sport. In the past, too much has relied on boys and girls being brought into the sport through their parents.

"We have had to re-educate clubs to become 'junior friendly', to set up junior sections and not to have places in the club which are 'no-go areas'," Barrington, the president of the Squash Racquets Association, said.

Most of the outstanding crop of English youngsters, who are among those benefitting from the £1.7 million of lottery funding that is underwriting the eight-year world-class performance programme, have a broad base in the sport. Tania Bailey, the world junior champion, represented Lincolnshire in both the 100 metres and the long jump and, now 18, practises squash for two hours a day while studying for a two-year GNVQ course in leisure and tourism at Stamford College. She enjoys squash partly because of the aggression. "I so enjoy the hitting of the ball," she said.

Dominique Lloyd-Walter, 16, ranked No 6 in the country, is another with a broad background in sport, having represented Hertfordshire at breaststroke swimming, despite having started squash at six years old with the encouragement of her father, John, the champion of Middlesex.

Vicky Lankester, 16, like Bailey a member of England's

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

world junior championships-winning team, plays golf and tennis in the summer and, curiously, finds that there is more pressure on her in tennis, despite her success in squash. Some of her fellow-pupils at the County Upper School in Bury St Edmunds are "a bit jealous" of her sporting distinction. "But some are really proud of me and my best friends are all supportive," she said.

Among the boys, Peter Barker, the England No 1 in the under-15 age group, still plays football regularly. His brother is Philip Barker, the top-ranking England player in the under-16 group.

"My parents have encouraged us to play as many sports as we can," Peter Barker, a Brentwood School pupil, said. "I do get a particular buzz from squash. The adrenaline pumps harder than in other sports."

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

LLOYDS BANK BASE RATE

Effective from 6 November 1997	7.25% per annum

MORTGAGES

	% Per Annum
Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate, Home Loan Rate and Lloyds Bank Black Horse Mortgage Rate from 1 December 1997	8.70

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	6.80	5.44	6.60	5.28
£ 50,000+	6.40	5.12	6.22	4.98
£ 25,000+	6.05	4.84	5.89	4.71
£ 10,000+	5.65	4.52	5.51	4.41
Below £10,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	4.60	3.68	4.51	3.61
£10,000+	4.25	3.40	4.17	3.34
£ 5,000+	3.75	3.00	3.69	2.95
£ 500+	3.40	2.72	3.35	2.68
Below £500	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

30 Day Savings	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	4.65	3.72	4.55	3.64
£10,000+	4.30	3.44	4.22	3.38
£ 5,000+	4.00	3.20	3.93	3.14
Below £5,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

Tessa	7.30% Tax-Free

Instant Gold Savings	Annual Option		Quarterly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£50,000+	6.00	4.80	5.87	4.70
£25,000+	5.70	4.56	5.58	4.46
£10,000+	5.40	4.32	5.29	4.23
£ 2,500+	5.05	4.04	4.96	3.97
£ 1+	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

Asset Management Service Investment Account	Interest Paid Monthly	
	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	6.60	5.28
£ 50,000+	6.22	4.98
£ 25,000+	5.89	4.71
£ 10,000+	5.51	4.41
Below £10,000	3.69	2.95

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice lists current rates.
GROSS – Gross rates do not take into account deduction of tax at the lower rate.
NET – The rate of interest after deduction of tax at the lower rate: this is shown for illustrative purposes only.
Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.
TAX-FREE – The annual interest rate when interest is exempt from income tax.
Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account-holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 1 December 1997

Lloyds Bank Plc represents only the Lloyds Bank Marketing Group for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business.

THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

TODAY

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership
Bolton v Newcastle (8.0)

Spalding Cup
Second round
Stevenage v Yeovil (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE: Full Members Cup: Second round: Bognor Regis v Worthing.
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second-round replay: Denaby v Armthorpe Welfare.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: First round: Emley v Stocksbridge.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Portsmouth (at Kingstonian, 7.0); Queens Park Rangers v Brighton (at Loftus Road, 2.0).
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Cup: Group three: Leicester v Derby (7.0).
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Keynsham v Backwell.
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Sunderland v Crewe, Southampton v Histon.

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Folkestone (first race, 1.0), Kelso (12.50), Worcester (12.40).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Ipswich v Middlesbrough (7.45); Sheffield Utd v Stoke (7.45). West Bromwich v Manchester City (7.45). Second division: Blackpool v Plymouth; Bournemouth v York (7.45); Bristol City v Burnley (7.45); Fulham v Brentford (7.45), Grimsby v Wycombe (7.45); Luton v Gillingham (7.45); Northampton v Chesterfield (7.45); Oldham v Carlisle (7.45); Southend v Preston (7.45); Wigan v Bristol Rovers (7.45); Wrexham v Watford. Third division: Colchester v Cardiff (7.45), Darlington v Shrewsbury; Doncaster v Chester; Exeter v Lincoln (7.45); Hartlepool v Hull; Leyton Orient v Barnet (7.45); Macclesfield v Scunthorpe (7.45); Peterborough v Cambridge Utd (7.45); Swansea v Rotherham; Torquay v Mansfield (7.45)

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Caledonia v ACT (at Bridgehaugh, Stirling, 7.0); England A v New Zealand XV (at Welford Road, Leicester, 7.45)

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: European League: Manchester Storm v Bolzano (7.30).
RACING: Newcastle (12.20), Newton Abbot (1.0), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.40).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: West Ham v Crystal Palace (8.0)
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Norwich (7.45). Second division: Walsall v Walsall (7.45) Third division: Brighton v Notts County (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship: England v Ukraine (at Guildford Spectrum).
RACING: Catterick (12.50), Fontwell Park (1.10), Southwell (1.0).

THURSDAY

RACING: Leicester (12.50), Windsor (1.0), Lingfield Park (AW, 1.10).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Second round: *Chester v Wrexham (7.45).
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Halifax v Stalybridge (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Glasgow v ACT (at Scotstoun, Glasgow)
CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: Group C: Sale v Moseley. Group D: Blackheath v London Scottish (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham Bullets v Chester Jets (8.0).
RACING: Exeter (12.50), Hereford (12.40), Sandown Park (1.0).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Coventry; Blackburn v Bolton, Derby v West Ham; Leeds v Everton; Leicester v Crystal Palace; Liverpool v Manchester Utd (11.15); Newcastle v Arsenal; Tottenham v Chelsea.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bury v Middlesbrough; *Crewe v Huddersfield; Manchester City v Wolverhampton; Norwich v Sheffield Utd; Nottingham Forest v Bradford; Port Vale v Birmingham; Portsmouth v Stoke; Queens Park Rangers v Sunderland; Reading v Charlton; Swindon v Oxford Utd; Tranmere v Ipswich; West Bromwich v Stockport. Third division: Scarborough v Rochdale.
FA CUP: Second round: Colchester v Hereford; Cheltenham v Boreham Wood; Northampton v Basingstoke; Fulham v Southend; *Hednesford v Darlington; Lincoln v Emley; Macclesfield v Walsall; Oldham v Blackpool; Peterborough v Dagenham and Redbridge; Cambridge Utd v Stevenage; Preston v Notts County; Rotherham v Kings Lynn; Scunthorpe v Ilkeston; Grimsby v Chesterfield; Cardiff v Hendon; *Torquay v Walford; Wigan v York; *Wisbech v Bristol Rovers.
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Halifax v Stalybridge; Hayes v Telford; Kidderminster v Dover; Morecambe v Gateshead; Northwich v Rushden and Diamonds; Southport v Leek; Welling v Slough; Yeovil v Kettering.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Aberdeen v St Johnstone; Dundee Utd v Dunfermline; Hearts v Motherwell (2.0); Kilmarnock v Celtic. First division: Airdrie v Dundee; Falkirk v Partick; Raith v Greenock Morton; St Mirren v Hamilton; Stirling v Ayr. Third division: Arbroath v East Stirling.
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: First round: Cowdenbeath v Montrose; East Fife v Stranraer; Fraserburgh v Clyde; Inverness CT v Whitehill.

RUGBY UNION

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England v New Zealand (at Twickenham, 2.0); Scotland v South Africa (at Murrayfield, 3.0).
CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: Group A: Gloucester v Fylde (12.30); Wakefield v West Hartlepool (12.0). Group B: Exeter v Leicester (3.0); Rotherham v London Irish (2.15). Group C: Waterloo v Coventry (2.15). Group D: Richmond v Bedford (11.0).
JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Rugby v Newbury (3.0).
WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridgend v Swansea (2.0); Llanelli v Ebbw Vale (2.0); Neath v Pontypridd (2.0); Newport v Cardiff (6.0) First division: Aberavon v Newbridge (2.0); Abertillery v Dunvant (2.0); Bonymaen v Blackwood (2.0); Caerphilly v South Wales Police (2.0); Cross Keys v Rumney (2.0); Maesteg v Treorchy (2.0); Merthyr v Llandovery (2.0); Cardiff Institute v Pontypool (2.0).
AIB LEAGUE: First division: Blackrock College v Lansdowne (2.30); Dolphin v Garryowen (2.30); Dungannon v Cork Constitution (2.30); Old Belvedere v Ballymena (2.30); Terenure College v St Mary's College (2.30); Young Munster v Clontarf (2.30). Second division: DLSP v Galwegians (2.30); Derry v Buccaneers (2.30); Greystones v Old Wesley (2.30); Instonians v Bective Rangers (2.30); Malone v Monkstown (2.30); Wanderers v Skerries (2.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v London Leopards (7.30).
BOXING: World Boxing Council international super-middleweight championship: H Graham (Sheffield, holder) v V Pazdera (US). Commonwealth super-middleweight championship (vacant): D Storie (Ipswich) v M Baker (Sidcup). WBC international super-bantamweight championship: P Mullings (Harrow, holder), v H Hirlan (Russ) (all at Wembley Arena).
ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Final: Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (at Sheffield, 7.0). Benson and Hedges Plate: Final: Telford Tigers v Slough Jets (3.0).
RACING: Chepstow (1.15), Sandown Park (12.50), Towcester (12.45), Wetherby (12.40), Wolverhampton (AW, 1.05).
ROWING: Thames world sculling challenge (3.30).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Wimbledon v Southampton (4.0).
FA CUP: Second round: Bournemouth v Bristol City (1.0).
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Rangers v Hibernian (3.0).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated
TENNENTS VELVET CUP: Fourth round: Aberdeen GSFP v Glasgow Hawks; Biggar v Kilmarnock; East Kilbride v Dundee HSFP; Edinburgh Academicals v Dalziel; Hawick v Langholm; Heriot's FP v Annan; Jed-Forest v Gala; Linlithgow v Boroughmuir; Melrose v Grangemouth; Murrayfield v Kelso; Musselburgh v Currie; Peebles v Gala; Stirling County v Gordonians; Strathendrick v Watsonians; West of Scotland v Glasgow Southern.
AIB LEAGUE: First division: Old Crescent v Shannon (2.30); Sunday's Well v UCC (2.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Birmingham Bullets (6.0); Sheffield Sharks v Worthing Bears (6.0); London Towers v Thames Valley Tigers (6.30). Uniball Trophy: Group stage: Chester Jets v Manchester Giants (5.30).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Basingstoke Bison v Newcastle Cobras (6.0); Nottingham Panthers v Cardiff Devils (7.0).

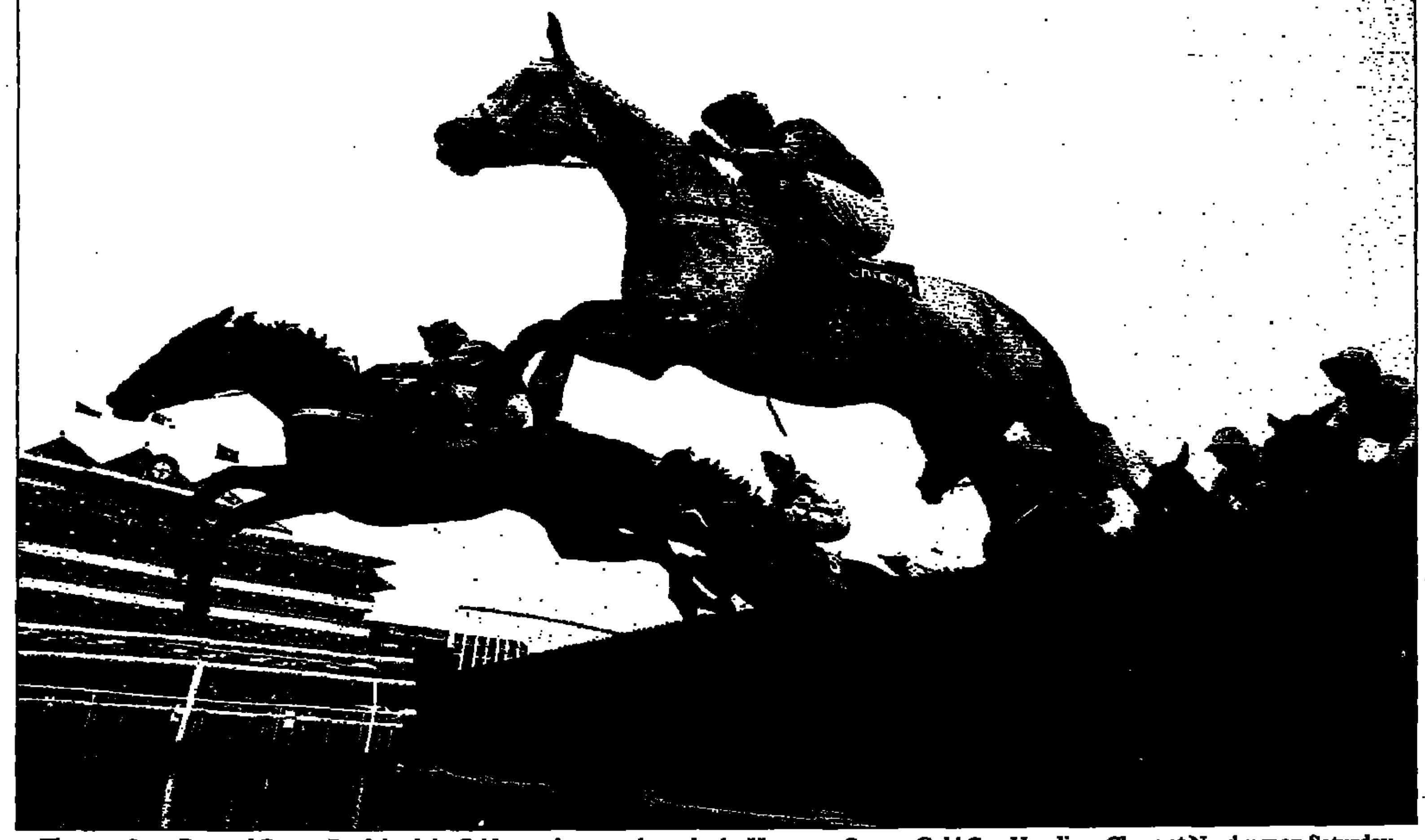
هكذا من الأصل

RACING: HENNESSY WINNER MADE FAVOURITE FOR CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP AND GRAND NATIONAL

Suny Bay on rising tide of success

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

ED BYRNE



The grey Suny Bay and Barton Bank lead the field over the water jump in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Newbury on Saturday

THE celebrations began around Saturday teatime with half a dozen bottles of champagne at The Bell in Boxford, continued at the Queen's Arms in East Garston and included dinner, for some, at the Lloyd-Webbers — before coming to a temporary halt shortly before dawn after a few nightcaps.

"All I can say is that Brad does not stay as well as Suny Bay," Charlie Brooks, trainer of the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup winner, said yesterday, his voice croaking as he prepared to renew the revelry.

Graham Bradley, the hero of the hour for managing to stay on board Suny Bay after an horrendous blunder at the fourth fence, was still on cloud nine yesterday despite the events of the previous night. "It was a hell of a celebration. After watching the race on television, my dad, my two sisters, a brother-in-law and six nieces decided to drive down from Yorkshire. It was a total surprise when they walked into the Queen's Arms.

"The whole day was magnificent. Unbelievable. Priceless. Fifteen years had passed since I last won the race, on Bregawn. Tony McCoy was just seven years old then. But I was confident beforehand because I had been so impressed with his Haydock run. I knew that all we needed was a slice of luck."

In the end, Bradley required all the good fortune going as Suny Bay made his uncharacteristic blunder. The 37-year-old rider deserved nothing less, according to Brooks, because the fates have not smiled on the weighing room veteran in recent seasons.

"Brad has had a bit of bad luck during the last three or four years. This year it has changed. If I am honest, I thought he should have retired last summer, but I was wrong. He is riding better than ever and, more important, his luck has changed. Last year, or the season before, he would have probably have fallen off Suny Bay after such a bad error."

Suny Bay has shown his best form in the mud, but, significantly, Bradley believes he may be more effective on good ground — which increases his range of options.

Provided Suny Bay's "dreadful" forelegs are none the worse after his exertions, Kempton will be the next stop for the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day. And what a race it promises to be. Barton Bank, winner of the King George in 1993 and runner-up to Suny Bay on Saturday, was confirmed a definite runner by David Nicholson yesterday. "Different course, different day," he said.

The Hennessy duo will be joined at the Sunbury course by Mr Mulligan, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, and One Man, who will be attempting to win the King George for the third year running. The bookmakers, *who often criticise the shortage* of quality races, should respond with some early antepost prices.

Suny Bay finds himself favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National, but it remains to be seen how effective he will be at Cheltenham. Brooks deliberately decided against entering the horse for the Welsh National because of concerns about how Suny Bay's fragile legs would cope with ups and downs at Chepstow — and Cheltenham is equally undulating. "I'll keep him on flat tracks as long as I can," he said.

More than 17,000 were at Newbury on Saturday, many *of whom made the journey to* hear Sir Peter O'Sullevan's final commentary. The legendary race caller was feted everywhere he went and capped a memorable afternoon by *seeing his colours* carried to victory by Sounds Fyne in the Fulke Walwyn Chase at the rewarding odds of 12-1. "I didn't have a shilling on," he said.

□ Rodney Farrant hopes to return at Southwell on Wednesday after being forced to miss his rides at Haydock on Saturday because of a back injury.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Royale Angela
(1.40 Worcester)

Royale Angela was the only runner to make a race of it against Deano's Beeno at Newton Abbot 13 days ago. The form was boosted when the winner followed up at Haydock on Saturday.

Next best: Tidebrook
(3.10 Worcester)

LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stake
M Pipe	101	55	26	2	-3.07
D Nicholson	48	23	24	2	+22.01
Mrs M Reveley	36	20	17	2	+16.71
P Nicholls	30	18	12	3	+28.79
P Hobbs	30	20	23	9	-58.48
P Bowen	28	27	21	5	-4.77
K Bailey	23	14	19	2	+38.76
Mrs S Smith	23	28	23	4	-42.12

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stake
A P McCoy	132	84	44	3	-32.28
A Maguire	77	48	37	0	+6.05
R Dunwoody	49	33	26	5	-25.16
R Johnson	46	59	42	13	-41.57
P Niven	36	20	17	2	-5.85
M A Fitzgerald	33	26	20	1	+21.24
A Thornton	32	28	44	0	-79.42
T J Murphy	30	16	11	3	+37.73

Istabraq strengthens Champion Hurdle claims

O'Brien: delighted

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT FAIRYHOUSE

ISTABRAQ strengthened his position as favourite for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham next March after *winning impressively* at Fairyhouse yesterday.

Coral shortened the Aidan O'Brien-trained gelding one point to 6-1 joint-favourite with Shadow Leader, but both William Hills and Ladbrokes *were more impressed with Istabraq's* two-length defeat of Cockney Lad in the grade one Avonmore Hatton's Grace Hurdle and make him the clear 5-1 favourite.

Istabraq, who started at the prohibitive odds of 3-1 on yesterday, was forced into making his own running over yesterday's 2½-mile trip. He jumped smoothly and quickened in good style when Cockney Lad tried to challenge in the straight.

O'Brien will run his Royal SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle winner next at Leopardstown over Christmas in a two-mile contest which will be a warm-up for the Irish Champion Hurdle at the same track in January.

"This horse has loads of pace and has got stronger this season. He was actually heavier today than when he won his last race, but that is because he is winning his races so easily. He gets a lead when he works at home and that will suit him better in a race," O'Brien said.

Charlie Swan, who had the luxury of looking round for dangers on the run-in yesterday, added: "I couldn't have been happier with Istabraq. The *faster he goes, the better he jumps."*

Earlier, Feathered Leader gained an impressive success in the grade one Avonmore Waterford Royal Bond Novices' Hurdle.

Always travelling strongly in the *hands of Conor O'Dwyer, the 11-2* chance was switched two out to challenge Promalee and Cloone Bridge. A fine jump at the last sealed the issue in favour of O'Dwyer's mount, who was good value for the four-length winning margin over the Richard Dunwoody-ridden Promalee.

"He comes from a chasing family and is a natural jumper, so I am really looking forward to him going over fences next season," his trainer, Arthur Moore, said. "He will run next at Leopardstown after Christmas."

Charlie Swan, who rode the disappointing favourite, Swiss Tune, behind Feathered Leader, had better luck on Private Peace in the grade one *Chiquita Drinmore Novices' Chase.* Hill Society looked to be going best turning for home when tracking Irish Breeze. However, the leader fell, bringing down Hill Society, handing the prize to Swiss Tune.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

1.00 Occold
1.30 Melody Maid
2.00 Antonio Mariano
2.30 Ross Dancer
3.00 Secret Bid
3.30 Ardent Bride

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.00 BREDE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,280: 2m 6f 110yd) (5 runners)

101 3-12 OCCOLD 19 (D,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-11-5 ... R Elkins (3) 120
102 BALLYHARRY (D Obank) P Wintersmith 7-10-12 ... L Aspell 115
103 40/P-2 EURO FORUM 16 (J Danston) J Gifford 5-10-12 ... D Burrows –
104 0/0/32U- MR CHATAWAY 246P (Mrs E Boucher) D Grissell 6-10-12 ... G Hogan –
105 8-6 CLAREGARY 21 (C Cornwell) B Rowe 4-10-7 ... A Garrity (3) –

BETTING: 4-9 Occold, 5-2 Euro Forum, 14-1 Claregary, 25-1 Mr Chataway, 33-1 Ballyharry.

1996: EMERALD STATEMENT 6-10-12 G Hogan (5-1) D Grissell 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: Occold 8l 2nd of 3 to Daraydan in hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to firm); previously beat Supreme Charm 5l in 17-runner novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good). Euro Forum 2l 2nd of 11 to Shahrur in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to firm); previously 46l 8th of 13 to Paddy's Return in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). Mr Chataway 64l 15th of 18 to Bangabunny in maiden hurdle at Punchestown (2m 4f, good to soft); previously 31l 8th of 21 to Dotatte Bay in NH flat race at Navan (2m, good to soft). Claregary 39l 6th of 9 to Guest Alliance in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft); previously 19l 6th of 8 to Macy in NH flat race at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to firm).

OCCOLD is difficult to oppose

1.30 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,406: 2m 1f 110yd) (11 runners)

201 0323- BOLD LEAP 254 (Two Generations Partnership) P R Webber 5-11-0 ... S McNeill –
202 30R- CRACKON JAKE 244 (E Houghton) J S Moore 4-11-0 ... W McFarland –
203 45231-4 ELTIGRI 15 (G) (A Wales) T Casey 5-11-0 ... D Gallagher 76
204 P280- OVER THE WATER 258 (Droop Partners) R Alner 5-11-0 ... A Thornton 103
205 0 PERSIAN BOY 19 (K Manley) O Sherwood 5-11-0 ... J A McCarthy –
206 6026- SILENT CRACKER 198 (Silent Partners) M Pitman 5-11-0 ... G Bradley 101
207 6 SPORT CREST 22 (Sport Crest Partnership) B De Haan 5-11-0 ... C Maude –
208 P1-65 TAKE MY SIDE 11 (S) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 5-11-0 ... P Henley (3) 90
209 10-F TOP NOTE 12 (D,S) (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 5-11-0 ... P Hide 132
210 052- CINNAMON CLUB 201 (Club Tea Syndicate) N Gaselee 5-10-9 ... C Llewellyn –
211 2118- MELODY MAID 222 (F,G) (R Parish) N Henderson 5-10-9 ... M A Fitzgerald –

BETTING: 15-8 Melody Maid, 9-2 Top Note, 13-2 Persian Boy, Cinnamon Club, 7-1 Bold Leap, 8-1 Eltigri, 10-1 Over The Water, 12-1 others.

1996: BOARDROOM SHUFFLE 5-11-0 P Hide (8-11 fav) J Gifford 7 ran

FORM FOCUS: Bold Leap 4l 3rd of 21 to Country Beau in NH flat race at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Eltigri 34l 4th of 8 to Esperanza IV in novice hurdle at Towcester (3m, good). Over The Water 32l 7th of 14 to Midnight Legend in maiden hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). Persian Boy a distance 10th of 12 to Cherrymore in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Silent Cracker 33l 6th of 18 to Mr Lowry in maiden hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good). Take My Side 37l 5th of 13 to Eshten in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft). Top Note fell in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft); previously 44l 21st of 25 to Florida Pearl in grade I NH flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm). Cinnamon Club 12l 2nd of 10 to Castle Owen in NH flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good). Melody Maid 17l 6th of 21 to Arctic Camper in NH flat race at Punchestown (2m, good)

OVER THE WATER is best of those with hurdling experience

2.00 DAILY MAIL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,518: 2m) (8 runners)

301 500-15F KEEP ME IN MIND 9 (D,F,G,S) (P Tory) N Mitchell 8-12-0 ... C Maude 106
302 100/6-1 ANTONIO MARIANO 14 (D,F,S) (Mrs M Campbell) P Mooney 6-11-6 ... L Aspell (3) 109
303 42FP6-6 BOLD ACRE 12 (B,S) (Mrs M Morgan) J Bradley 7-11-1 ... P Hide 82
304 /P3-332 SHERWOOD BOY 12 (D,F,G) (P Granger) K Bailey 8-10-13 ... A Thornton 109
305 6002-PF KUMARI KING 136 (P O'Keeffe) A Carroll 7-10-9 ... T J Murphy 110
306 P2P4P-6 DARING KING 21 (F,S) (Cleeve Stables) M Bolton 7-10-6 ... T Dascombe –
307 F65/40- FIRST INSTANCE 380 (Peolo Racing) D Grissell 7-10-0 ... J R Kavanagh –
308 635P-R BROOK BEE 40 (Saxon Partnership) N Gaselee 5-10-0 ... W Marston –

Long handicap: First Instance 9-13, Brook Bee 9-7

BETTING: 9-4 Antonio Mariano, 11-4 Keep Me In Mind, 7-2 Sherwood Boy, 7-1 Kumari King, 10-1 First Instance, 12-1 Brook Bee, 20-1 Bold Acre, Daring King.

1996: SCORESHEET 6-11-0 P Hide (4-1) J Gifford 9 ran

FORM FOCUS: Keep Me In Mind fell in novice handicap chase at Aintree (2m, good to soft); previously 78l 5th of 7 to Northern Starlight in grade II novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). Antonio Mariano beat Buckland Lad 6l in 5-runner handicap chase at Plumpton (2m, soft). Sherwood Boy 1¼l 2nd of 12 to Play Games in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good to soft) with Bold Acre (1lb better off) 29l 6th. Daring King a distance 6th of 7 to Gerry's Pride in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). First Instance 12l 7th of 8 to Dream Leader in novice handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good to firm). Brook Bee ran out in novice handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good).

ANTONIO MARIANO was impressive last time and can overcome a 5lb rise in the handicap

2.30 BRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,448: 2m 6f 110yd) (8 runners)

401 /1P4/23 FUTURE KING 16 (BF,G,S) (M Booth) K Bailey 10-12-0 ... W Walsh (7) 109
402 024-6 CHEEKY CHARLIE 16 (P Collins) G L Moore 5-11-3 ... D Gallagher 103
403 0513-63 ROSS DANCER 15 (F) (P O'Loughlin) J S Moore 5-10-12 ... J Magee (3) 113
404 2006U5- MISS BERTAINE 218 (T Dartnall) N Callaghan 8-10-12 ... G Bradley 88
405 0/1P-55 MY MAN IN DUNDALK 15 (S) (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 6-10-11 ... L Aspell (3) 89
406 53F-022 CABOCHON 28 (G,S) (J Joseph) J Joseph 10-10-8 ... C Llewellyn 118
407 001P-41 POLO PONY 20 (F,S) (Champagne Guzzlers) J Upson 5-10-3 ... J Supple 102
408 001U5-5 NODDADANTE 46 (D,G) (N Mitchell) N Mitchell 7-10-0 ... Sophie Mitchell (5) 107

Long handicap: Noddadante 9-10.

BETTING: 3-1 Cabochon, 7-2 Future King, 9-2 My Man In Dundalk, 6-1 Ross Dancer, Polo Pony, 8-1 Cheeky Charlie, 12-1 Miss Bertaine, 16-1 Noddadante.

1996: NICK THE BEAK 7-11-10 G Supple (6-1) J Upson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: Future King 2¼l 3rd of 11 to Secret Gift in amateurs handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to firm). Cheeky Charlie 9l 6th of 12 to Snowy Petrel in novice handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good to firm). Ross Dancer 7¾l 3rd of 7 to Spring Saint in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good) with My Man In Dundalk (5lb better off) 32l 5th. Miss Bertaine 14l 5th of 20 to Bawnrock in maiden hurdle at Listowel (3m, good to soft). Cabochon 2l 2nd of 7 to Native Shore in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to firm). Polo Pony beat Community Service 5l in 9-runner selling handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (3m 3f 110yd, good). Noddadante 10l 5th of 8 to Pride Of Kashmir in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm).

ROSS DANCER ran respectably over an inadequate trip last time

3.00 DAILY MAIL HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,265: 3m 2f) (9 runners)

501 PF1F/U5 SAN FERNANDO 11 (B,S) (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 11-11-10 ... P Hide 96
502 43163-P NORTHERN VILLAGE 6 (F) (L Dace) L A Dace 10-11-5 ... L Aspell (3) –
503 P/13F/P MONKSANDER 42 (F,G) (J Pearl) P Ritchens 11-11-3 ... C Maude –
504 5143-F1 DREAM LEADER 18 (F,G) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 7-11-3 ... M A Fitzgerald 108
505 63221-4 LAY IT OFF 177 (F,S) (J J O'Neill) J J O'Neill 8-11-3 ... S Curran 114
506 5U144-U PAVLOVA 15 (S) (Mrs M McGlone) R Rowe 7-11-1 ... A Garrity (7) 101
507 6UP-423 SECRET BID 16 (F) (Droop Partners) R Alner 7-11-0 ... A Thornton 93
508 64042-4 SHAMARPHIL 13 (F,S) (Miss S Barraclough) R Alner 11-10-11 ... Miss S Barraclough 90
509 02F54-2 JAC DEL PRINCE 42 (D Millward) P Nicholls 7-10-8 ... T J Murphy 107

Long handicap: Jac Del Prince 9-12.

BETTING: 5-2 Dream Leader, 3-1 Lay It Off, 9-2 Jac Del Prince, 7-1 San Fernando, Secret Bid, 14-1 Northern Village, Pavlova, Shamarphil, 25-1 Monksander.

1996: FUNCHEON GALE 9-11-6 D Morris (6-4 fav) R Curtis 7 ran

FORM FOCUS: San Fernando 36l 5th of 7 to Senley Bay in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Northern Village pulled up in handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good); previously 29l 6th of 14 to Struggles Glory in novice hunter chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to firm). Monksander pulled up in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, good). Dream Leader beat Steeple Jack 2½l in 10-runner handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good). Lay It Off 13l 4th of 14 to Martell Boy in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, good). Pavlova unseated rider in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good); previously 22l 4th of 7 to Credon in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to firm). Secret Bid 9½l 3rd of 5 to Into The Clan in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good to firm). Shamarphil beaten a distance 4th of 5 to Dom Samourai in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, soft); previously 2½l 2nd of 10 to Royal Saxon in handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good). Jac Del Prince 6l 2nd of 13 to Snowdon Lily in novice handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, good)

DREAM LEADER is open to further improvement over fences and can win again

3.30 BIGGIN HILL MARES ONLY INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,235: 2m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

601 145- TARA GALE 212 (BF,CD,S) (A Williams) J Neville 5-11-7 ... X Aizpuru (5) –
602 ARDENT BRIDE (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 4-11-0 ... P Hide –
603 BUILT IN HEAVEN (G West) J C Poulton 5-11-0 ... A Thornton –
604 5 CHAT IN THE BOX 51 (Uplands Bloodstock & D Cowie) C Brooks 4-11-0 ... G Brace (7) –
605 4- DEEP C DIVA 198 (BF) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Old 5-11-0 ... M A Fitzgerald –
606 46-0 DUNSFOLD DOLLY 22 (Dunsfold Dollies) P Winkworth 4-11-0 ... L Aspell (3) –
607 ELLIEWELLIEWOO (D Wade-Jones) P R Webber 4-11-0 ... J A McCarthy –
608 0- FRESH ROSE MARY 247 (J Moore) J S Moore 5-11-0 ... J Kenny (7) –
609 5/4-2 LANDA'S COUNSEL 12 (J Blackshaw) D Gandolfo 6-11-0 ... Sophie Mitchell (5) –
610 MY DAWN (A Figg) C Morlock 4-11-0 ... J R Kavanagh –
611 OH NO ROSIE (P Vanner) B McMath 6-11-0 ... C Llewellyn –
612 PERRYWISE (G Stanton) Miss V Williams 4-11-0 ... S Kelly (7) –
613 SHARP PRACTICE (J J O'Neill) J J O'Neill 5-11-0 ... S Curran –
614 SILENT ROSE (Silent Partners) M Pitman 4-11-0 ... L Corcoran (7) –

BETTING: 3-1 Tara Gale, 7-2 Landa's Counsel, 5-1 Deep C Diva, 11-2 Ardent Bride, 7-1 Chat In The Box, 12-1 Elliewelliewoo, Silent Rose, 16-1 others.

1996: BULA VOGUE 6-11-0 D O'Sullivan (11-1) R Rowe 14 ran

FORM FOCUS: Tara Gale 5½l 5th of 17 to Dawn Spinner in NH flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good) with Dunsfold Dolly (5lb worse off) 7¼l 6th. Ardent Bride, Ardross filly, sister to two winning jumpers including Shamana, Built In Heaven, Sunley Builds mare, half-sister to a winning hurdler. Chat In The Box 11l 5th of 18 to Jaquies Glen in NH flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good). Deep C Diva 14l 4th of 16 to Sea Tarth in NH flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good). Dunsfold Dolly 26l 8th of 14 to Winston Run in NH flat race at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). Elliewelliewoo, Syrtos filly, half-sister to winning hurdler Act Of Faith. Fresh Rose Mary 14l 7th of 10 to Sir Lunchalot in NH flat race at Towcester (2m, good to firm). Landa's Counsel 8l 2nd of 16 to Latin Mistress in mares NH flat at Hereford (2m 1f, good). Sharp Practice, Broadsword mare, half-sister to winning chaser Sleazey. Silent Rose, Petoski filly, out of Silent Surrender.

TARA GALE, a winner over course and distance last season, can make a winning reappearance

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Winkworth	4	8	50.0	J McCarthy	3	13	23.1
N Henderson	8	24	33.3	M A Fitzgerald	9	41	22.0
J Gifford	19	69	27.5	P Hide	9	42	21.4
C Brooks	3	12	25.0	S McNeill	5	31	16.1
N Gaselee	4	19	21.1	C Llewellyn	3	28	10.7
R Alner	6	29	20.7	Only qualifiers			

Lowther banned

CARL LOWTHER was banned for five days for riding a finish a circuit too soon on Naval Games in the Frost Claiming Stakes over a mile and seven furlongs at Wolverhampton on Saturday evening.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
KELSO 104 204
FOLKESTONE 105 205
WORCESTER 106 206
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

12.40 Just Jasmine. 1.10 Escartefigue. 1.40 Ainsi Soit Il. 2.10 Simpson. 2.40 Easy Feelin. 3.10 Well Timed. 3.40 Festive Teak.

Timekeeper's top rating: 12.40 JUST JASMINE.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES) SIS
7.30AM INSPECTION

12.40 RUSHOCK MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,425 2m) (6 runners)

1 1 HILL FARM BLUES 12 (D,G) W M Brisbourne 4-11-0 ... D Bridgwater 109
2 DUTCH DYANE 157F G Enright 4-10-7 ... R Bellamy –
3 465 GALACIA 6 R Alner 5-10-7 ... R Wilkinson (7) 90
4 015 JAQUES GLEN 33 (G) P Hobbs 4-10-7 ... R Dunwoody 98
5 3-30 JUST JASMINE 19 K Bishop 5-10-7 ... R Greene 124
6 60-P VITA NUOVA 6 Mrs C Hicks 6-10-7 ... V Slattery –

11-8 Hill Farm Blues, 2-1 Jaques Glen, 3-1 Just Jasmine, 8-1 Galacia, 12-1 Dutch Dyane, 20-1 Vita Nuova.

1.10 TOTE NOVICES CHASE QUALIFIER
(£3,150 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 421- DENHAM HILL 237 (S) C Mann 6-10-12 ... R Dunwoody –
2 512- ESCARTEFIGUE 221 (BF,G,S) D Nicholson 5-10-12 ... A Maguire –
3 14-U GENERAL TONIC 15 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 10-10-12 ... G Upton –
4 011/ GREVILLE AGAIN 987 (S) D Nicholson 8-10-12 ... R Johnson –

4-9 Escartefigue, 4-1 Denham Hill, 8-1 General Tonic, 10-1 Greville Again

1.40 MIDLAND TECHNICAL TRANSLATIONS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,756: 2m 4f) (4)

1 /1-4 MID DAY CHASER 14 (F,G,S) P R Webber 6-11-10 A Maguire 103
2 F3/2 ROYALE ANGELA 13 (S) J Neville 5-10-13 ... R Johnson 117
3 5-PP AINSI SOIT IL 14 (B,D,G,S) G McCourt 6-10-12 D Bridgwater 128
4 2/0- COURT CIRCULAR 527 (D,F) W Clay 8-10-7 R Thornton (3) –

6-5 Mid Day Chaser, 7-4 Royale Angela, 4-1 Ainsi Soit Il, 7-1 Court Circular

2.10 RICHARD DAVIS MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,186: 2m 7f 110yd) (2)

1 -212 DECYBORG 10 (F,G) M Pipe 6-11-10 ... A P McCoy 128
2 325- SIMPSON 247 (D,F,G,S) J Old 12-10-11 ... A Maguire 121

30-100 Decyborg, 9-4 Simpson

2.40 SPETCHLEY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,408: 2m 4f) (5)

1 01-1 EASY FEELIN 19 (CD,G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-3 ... A Maguire 130
2 0-0 FOLDING 19 Mrs A Barclay 6-10-10 ... T Jenks 105
3 2-0 GOOD LORD MURPHY 19 P Hobbs 5-10-10 ... R Dunwoody 121
4 0-0 THE GADFLY 33 C Jones 5-10-10 ... G Upton –
5 442- WILLOWS ROULETTE 209 A Hobbs 5-10-10 ... G Shenkin (7) 90

2-5 Easy Feelin, 7-2 Willows Roulette, 7-1 Good Lord Murphy, 33-1 The Gadfly, 50-1 Folding.

3.10 MALVERN HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,041: 2m) (5)

1 1-11 TIDEBROOK 2 (CD,G,S) K Bailey 7-12-7 (7ex) Mr R Wakley (5) 122
2 3P-P BLAZING TRAIL 19 (V,D,S) Miss L Russell 9-12-0 R Johnson 118
3 22P- WELL TIMED 296 (D,S) R Frost 7-11-12 ... J Frost 130
4 3F3 HAWKFIELD 19 (D,S) P Hobbs 8-11-7 ... R Dunwoody 106
5 P3P3 DAWN CHANCE 22 (B,D,F,S) H Haynes 11-10-0 ... R Thornton (3) 120

8-11 Tidebrook, 13-8 Hawkfield, 7-1 Well Timed, 20-1 Blazing Trail, Dawn Chance.

3.40 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,319 2m) (8)

1 3 BEEFY NOVA 13 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-5 ... J Goldstein (7) –
2 DUNBURY FLYER J Old 5-11-5 ... R Thornton (3) –
3 3 EASTDON GOLD DUST 26 A Hobbs 4-11-5 ... G Shenkin (7) –
4 F- FESTIVE TEAK 280P D Nicholson 5-11-5 ... R Massey (3) –
5 0-6 KAZ KALEM 19 P Hobbs 5-11-5 ... Mr R Widger (7) –
6 KIMBER HILL LAD S Knight 4-11-5 ... Mr J Tizzard (5) –
7 5- REGAL SPRING 243 K Bailey 5-11-5 ... Mr R Wakley (5) –
8 MADAM MATCH Mrs H Mobley 6-11-0 ... L Cummins (5) –

9-4 Dunbury Flyer, 5-2 Festive Teak, 7-2 Regal Spring, 5-1 Beefy Nova, 10-1 Eastdon Gold Dust, 16-1 Kaz Kalem, 33-1 Kimber Hill Lad, 50-1 Madam Match.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 50 winners from 161 runners, 31.1%; D Nicholson, 29 from 97, 29.9%; K Bailey, 27 from 113, 23.9%; C Mann, 7 from 33, 21.2%; P Hobbs, 27 from 135, 20.0%; G McCourt, 3 from 21, 14.3%.

JOCKEYS: A McCoy, 49 winners from 170 rides, 28.8%; A Maguire, 33 from 189, 17.5%; D Bridgwater, 25 from 145, 17.2%; R Dunwoody, 35 from 227, 15.4%; R Johnson, 14 from 91, 15.4%; J Frost, 6 from 45, 13.3%.

□ **The meeting at Worcester today survived an inspection yesterday but remains in doubt because of heavy rain. A decision will be made this morning at 7.30. Hugo Bevan, the clerk of the course, said: "The river alongside the track is rising to an unacceptable level and we might have flooding."**

KELSO

THUNDERER

12.50 Justin Mac. 1.20 Young Kenny. 1.50 China King. 2.20 ASK ME LATER (nap). 2.50 Linlathen. 3.20 Global Legend.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT, SOFT IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

12.50 ROB ROY RESTAURANT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,829: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

1 5021 CAULKER 13 (D,S) M Barnes 4-11-5 ... S Taylor (5)
2 3 ESCOBAR 18 A Whillans 4-10-12 ... M Foster
3 24-0 FASSAN 16 M Hammond 5-10-12 ... R Garritty
4 3 HIGHFIELD PET 30 C Grant 4-10-12 ... C McCormack (7)
5 INGLE DENE 8 Mackaggart 4-10-12 ... G Lee (3)
6 121 JUSTIN MAC 10 (D,F,G) J FitzGerald 6-10-12 ... P Carberry
7 2 LEDGENDRY LINE 15 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-12 ... P Niven
8 26 SANDABAR 37 H Johnson 4-10-12 ... Mr S Durack (5)
9 D STORMLESS 15 J Goldie 6-10-12 ... R McGrath (3)
10 00- SUNRISE SENSATION 290 R McDonald 4-10-12 ... R Supple
11 D TAKE NOTICE 13 M Wane 4-10-12 ... J Callaghan
12 00-P THE VALE 15 R McKellar 5-10-12 ... D Parker
13 000- TIDAL RACE 220 J Haldane 5-10-12 ... E Callaghan
14 6- VICTOR LASZLO 408 R Allan 5-10-12 ... B Storey
15 0 WHAT THE HECK 19 P Cheesbrough 5-10-12 ... Mr C Bonner (3)

13-8 Ledgendry Line, 15-8 Justin Mac, 7-1 Fassan, 8-1 Caulker, 12-1 Escobar, Stormless, 14-1 Sandabar, 20-1 others.

1.20 JACK BRITTON MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE
(£4,491: 3m 1f) (8)

1 P0-P BUNNY BUCK 15 D Eddy 7-11-0 ... R McGrath (3)
2 F00Y CALLERNOY 579 (S) D Lamb 7-11-0 ... J Burke
3 60-3 DEISE MARSHALL 18 J Wade 9-11-0 ... Mr S Durack (5)
4 0-80 GALE FORCE 13 P Beaumont 6-11-0 ... B Grattan (5)
5 2-22 GIVEMEYOURHAND 30 (G) J Charlton 8-11-0 ... B Storey
6 361- MILITARY ACADEMY 200 (G,S) G Richards 8-11-0 ... P Carberry
7 03-2 YOUNG KENNY 16 (D,G,S) P Beaumont 6-11-0 ... R Supple
8 1P-3 FLOWER OF DUNBLANE 63 (F) Mrs D Thomson 6-10-9 ... D Parker

11-10 Young Kenny, 6-4 Military Academy, 8-1 Givemeyourhand, 10-1 Deise Marshall, 16-1 Gale Force, 20-1 Flower Of Dunblane, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs A Swinbank, 7 winners from 21 runners, 33.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 39 from 123, 31.7%; M Hammond, 25 from 103, 24.3%; J Dun, 3 from 14, 21.4%; H Johnson, 17 from 87, 19.5%; J Fitzgerald, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: Mr C Wilson, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%; Mr M Bradburne, 8 from 22, 36.4%; P Niven, 49 from 143, 34.3%; E Callaghan, 4 from 13, 30.8%; P Carberry, 10 from 42, 23.8%; Mr C Storey, 6 from 27, 22.2%.

1.50 PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,693: 2m 2f) (7)

1 4363 CONTRAFIRE 19 (F) A Whillans 5-11-10 ... E Callaghan
2 23-4 FLYAWAY BLUES 19 (B,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-8 ... P Niven
3 14-1 RACHAEL'S OWEN 179 (F,G) J Goldie 7-11-6 ... R McGrath (3)
4 51-5 COMMANDER GLEN 19 (CD,F) M Hammond 5-11-4 ... R Garritty
5 -122 CHINA KING 10 (F,G) J Fitzgerald 6-10-12 ... P Carberry
6 50P- COMMON SOUND 222 (S) J Barclay 6-10-8 ... C McCormack (7)
7 4-62 LUMBACK LADY 30 B Mactaggart 7-10-7 ... G Lee (3)

9-4 China King, 7-2 Rachael's Owen, 9-2 Lumback Lady, 6-1 Flyaway Blues, 7-1 Contrafire, Commander Glen, 20-1 Common Sound.

2.20 MACBET CHAMPION CHASE
(Handicap: £6,825: 3m 4f) (5)

1 24-2 CEILIDH BOY 19 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 11-11-10 ... B Storey
2 -U61 HILLWALK 17 (F,G,S) R Curtis 11-11-10 ... C McCormack (7)
3 P3-1 COQUI LANE 19 (C,G,S) J Dun 10-10-10 ... D Parker
4 2-22 ASK ME LATER 16 (C,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-4 ... Mr M Bradburne (7)
5 0331 D'ARBLAY STREET 11 (B,C,G,S) W Kemp 8-10-0 ... Mr S Durack (5)

2-1 Ask Me Later, 3-1 Coqui Lane, 7-2 Ceilidh Boy, 4-1 Hillwalk, 8-1 D'Arblay Street.

2.50 ERIC SCARTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,274: 2m 6f 110yd) (4)

1 -1U2 LINLATHEN 15 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-12-0 ... P Niven
2 -5PF RALLEGIO 23 (G,S) P Monteith 8-10-12 ... I Jardine (7)
3 35-6 MENSHAAR 15 (G,S) L Lungo 5-10-9 ... R Supple
4 5-63 CASH BOX 9 (CD,G) T Carr 9-10-0 ... N Smith

6-4 Linlathen, 9-4 Cash Box, 7-2 Menshaar, 5-1 Rallegio.

3.20 OSWALD HUGHES AMATEUR RIDERS MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,332: 2m 6f 110yd) (9)

1 0-23 CELTIC DUKE 21 M Hammond 5-11-10 ... C Bonner (3)
2 38-2 GLOBAL LEGEND 22 (BF) J Howard Johnson 7-11-10 ... S Durack (5)
3 /0-4 HEIGHTH OF FAME 10F J Hetherton 6-11-10 ... J Byrne (7)
4 P6 MONOTONY 24 C Grant 4-11-10 ... Mrs S Grant (7)
5 P51- PLEASEDASPUNCH 245P (B) Mrs J Storey 5-11-10 ... C Storey (5)
6 050- SNOOTY ESKIMO 252 J Haldane 5-11-10 ... D McPhail (7)
7 50P- THE KHOINOA 247 Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-10 ... C Wilson (7)
8 /40- YOUNG STEVEN 380 Mrs S Bradburne 6-11-10 ... M Bradburne (7)
9 44F0 FINER FEELINGS 22 Mrs D Thomson 5-11-5 ... R Hale (5)

4-5 Global Legend, 3-1 Celtic Duke, 6-1 Heighth Of Fame, 10-1 Pleasedaspunch, 16-1 Finer Feelings, 25-1 Monotony, The Khoinoa, 33-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Worcester: 3.10 Blazing Trail. Kelso: 1.50 Flyaway Blues.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Newbury

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles)

12.45 (3m 1f ch) 1, Native Mission (R Dunwoody, 7-2); 2, Mister Oddy (15-8 fav); 3, Certainly Strong (9-4). 4 ran. NR: Amlah. 3l, 3l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £4.60. DF: £4.70. CSF: £9.42.

1.15 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Sanmartino (A Maguire, 15-8 fav); 2, I'm Supposin (2-1); 3, Finnegan's Hollow (11-2). 5 ran. 13l, 13l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.80; £1.40, £1.90. DF: £3.20. CSF: £6.00.

1.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Go-Informal (E Callaghan, 5-2); 2, Antapoura (9-4 fav); 3, Spring Marathon (50-1). 8 ran. 2½l, 17l. J Jefferson. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £1.10. £5.10. DF: £4.00. CSF: £8.36.

2.25 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, Suny Bay (G Bradley, 9-4 fav); 2, Barton Bank (16-1); 3, Eudipe (11-1). 14 ran. 13l, 4l. C Brooks. Tote: £3.30; £1.70, £4.00, £2.80. DF: £31.20. Trio: £60.00. CSF: £36.23. Tricast: £321.23.

2.55 (2m 4f ch) 1, Sounds Fyne (M A Fitzgerald, 12-1); 2, Landed Gentry (20-1); 3, Feel The Power (9-2). Storm Damage (fl 11-4 fav). 7 ran. 1½l, 3l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £13.70; £3.50, £5.50. DF: £100.30. CSF: £154.49.

3.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Polydamas (A Maguire, 15-2); 2, Mr Markham (11-8 fav); 3, Ardante (6-1). 14 ran. NR: Royal Trump. Nk, 1½l. K Bailey. Tote: £9.80; £2.20, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £7.50. Trio: £18.50. CSF: £16.43.

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (0.1 winning tickets. Pool of £8,880.05 carried forward to Folkestone today).

Placepot: £1,277.10. Quadpot: £161.50.

Newcastle

Going: good

12.10 (2m hdle) 1, Sad Mad Bad (P Niven, evens fav); 2, City Hall (5-1); 3, Coral Island (9-2). 15 ran. Sh hd, 13l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.50, £1.70. DF: £3.60. Trio: £4.40. CSF: £5.13.

12.40 (2m 4f ch) 1, Burnt Imp (J Callaghan, 4-5 fav); 2, Phar Echo (4-1); 3, Minster Glory (100-30). 6 ran. 6l, 1¼l. G Moore. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £2.30. DF: £2.40. CSF: £4.03.

1.10 (3m hdle) 1, For Cathal (P Niven, 5-2); 2, Birkdale (2-1); 3, Cypress Avenue (14-1). Old Hush Wing 15-8 fav. 6 ran. Nk, 9l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.50; £1.90, £1.60. DF: £3.60. CSF: £7.14.

1.45 (3m ch) 1, Speaker Weatherill (M Brennan, 11-10 fav); 2, Cats Run (9-1); 3, Silver Stick (8-1). 6 ran. 30l, 17l. O Brennan. Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £3.60. DF: £18.60. CSF: £10.37.

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Star Rage (D Gallagher, 6-1); 2, Whip Hand (5-4 fav); 3, Native-Darrig (9-2). 8 ran. 1½l, 2l. M Johnston. Tote: £7.90; £1.90, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £5.20. CSF: £13.74. Tricast: £35.16.

2.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, Real Tonic (P Carberry, 10-1); 2, Master Boston (10-1); 3, Fiveleigh Builds (8-1). River Unshion (f) evens fav. 9 ran. Nk, Val De Rama. 2½l, 18l. G Richards. Tote: £8.10; £3.30, £2.40, £1.30. DF: £58.50. Trio: £86.20. CSF: £98.52. Tricast: £521.66.

3.15 (2m hdle) 1, Bures (B Grattan, 9-2); 2, House Of Dreams (4-1); 3, Double Agent (20-1). Quango 15-8 fav. 7 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. Mrs J Brown. Tote: £5.20; £3.00, £2.00. DF: £8.70. CSF: £22.29.

Placepot: £19.40. Quadpot: £13.80.

Haydock Park

Going: soft

1.05 1, Native Field (7-1); 2, Lansdowne (5-4 fav); 3, Totally Yours (11-4). 9 ran. NR: Fair And Fancy, Misty Grey.

1.40 1, Early Drinker (7-2); 2, Ballyline (9-4 fav). Only two finished. 5 ran.

2.10 1, Him Of Praise (7-4 fav); 2, Dom Samourai (4-1); 3, Danger Baby (4-1). 6 ran. NR: Sister Stephanie.

2.40 1, Native Shore (evens fav); 2, Vadlawys (5-2); 3, Chief Chipple (50-1). 8 ran.

3.10 1, Space Trucker (11-10 jt-fav); 2, The Secret Grey (25-1); 3, Robins Pride (33-1). Zabadi 11-10 jt-fav. 5 ran. NR: Our Main Man.

3.45 1, Deano's Beeno (8-11 fav); 2, Mentmore Towers (6-1); 3, Outset (6-1). 10 ran. NR: Menshaar.

Warwick

Going: good to soft, soft in places

12.30 1, Harlequin Chorus (13-2); 2, Royal Scimitar (11-2); 3, Gone For A Burton (17-2). Fill The Bill 5-2 fav. 17 ran. NR: Buzzards Bellbuoy, Mill Bay Sam.

1.00 1, Tidebrook (6-5 fav); 2, Northern Saddler (7-2); 3, No Light (7-4). 4 ran.

1.30 1, Splendid Thyne (8-1); 2, Toby Brown (5-2); 3, Thrower (7-4 fav). 5 ran.

2.00 1, Over The Deel (13-2); 2, Flippance (3-1 fav); 3, Hill Trix (25-1). 6 ran.

2.30 1, Etharleo (12-1); 2, Noble Tom (9-2 fav); 3, Soldier Mak (5-1). 13 ran.

3.00 1, Kadastrof (2-5 fav); 2, John Drumm (6-1); 3, Smolensk (11-1). 5 ran.

3.30 1, Eddy's Son (4-1); 2, Timely Magic (3-1 fav); 3, Quabmatic (20-1). 18 ran.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

7.00 1, Graimano (11-4 jt-fav); 2, Mareeba (11-2); 3, Rubamma (11-4 jt-fav). 10 ran.

7.30 1, Brodessa (5-1); 2, Nikita's Star (9-1); 3, Private Fixture (9-1). State Approval 9-4 fav. 12 ran

8.00 1, Girl Of My Dreams (7-1); 2, Queens Stroller (16-1); 3, River Ensign (9-2). Heathyards Lady 7-2 fav. 12 ran.

8.30 1, Random Kindness (7-1); 2, Alsahib (20-1); 3, Premier Dance (20-1). Eollsted 11-4 fav. 12 ran.

9.00 1, Summerseat (13-2); 2, Sharp Monkey (3-1); 3, Lacaranda (12-1). Teaploy Girl 11-8 fav. 10 ran.

9.30 1, Village Native (10-1); 2, Aljaz (12-1); 3, Shadow Jury (12-1). Statoyork 2-1 fav. 13 ran.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

EUROPEAN SHORT BREAKS FROM £24

● 168 BREAK[S] … EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

● CHOOSE TO TRAVEL BY CAR, TRAIN OR AIR

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Starting today, *The Times*, with Leisure Direction, offers readers the chance to take a short break in Europe from just £24 per person, which includes one night's accommodation and return fare.

Our money-saving packages are available for completed travel up to March 31, 1998. We give you a choice of 168 hotels in nine European countries: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain. Leisure Direction offers unbeatable prices for short breaks in Europe by car, train or plane.

The hotels featured this week range from two to five-star. In many you will get the sort of luxury to which you could easily become accustomed. In others you get value for money comfort. All bedrooms have private facilities. You can stay in one hotel for one night or longer, or combine a selection of hotels.

Most hotels allow one child under 12 to share your room at no extra cost. Cot and food charges are payable at the hotel.

Some of our short-break hotels are close to excellent golf courses. The majority also have a restaurant or are near to a wide choice of restaurants.

This offer gives you a unique double guarantee: no surcharges — whatever happens, the price quoted at the time of your reservation is the price you pay; and the lowest price – so if you find the same package holiday cheaper in the brochure of any other tour operator, Leisure Direction will beat that price.*

How the offer works

Simply choose your hotel from those listed today, and the rest of this week, and telephone Leisure Direction now to make your booking on: **0181-324 3001** for short breaks by car; **0181-324 3002** for short breaks by train; for short breaks by air call **0181-324 3003**. Lines are open from Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sats 9am-5.30pm and 10am-4pm Sun.

Then collect four out of the six tokens published this week and attach them to the booking form which will be printed on Saturday, December 6, 1997. Post it to Leisure Direction within 15 days of making your booking.

All prices shown are based on the first night's accommodation, sharing a twin/double room on a bed and breakfast or room only basis, and includes the return fare for your chosen method of transport for completed travel up to March 31, 1998.

- The first price listed is travel by car.
- The second price listed is travel by Eurostar.
- The third price listed is travel by air.
- The fourth price quoted is for additional nights.
- The last figure is the number of free child (under 12) accommodation places.

You can extend your stay at any of the hotels (a maximum of four night's self-drive). Please specifiy at the time of your original booking. To work out the cost, just add the additional night price per person for each extra night.

Eurostar and scheduled air breaks are subject to a minimum stay, generally 2/3 nights, when travelling midweek. There is a supplement of £15 per person for travel on Eurostar on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Hotel-only bookings can also be made. A booking fee is payable. For more information, call Leisure Direction on **0181 324 3001.**

*Subject to availability, similar conditions and restrictions applicable to total holiday invoice and valid until you pay your deposit.

THE TIMES Leisure Direction
EURO BREAKS TOKEN 1

Brittany Ferries Holidays

le Shuttle

PARIS

Sovereign Clichy ★★★
Chaming small hotel Mon-Thu add £10 per person per night
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

Sovereign St Ouen ★★
On the banks of the Seine. Mon-Thu add £10 per person per night
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

Sovereign St Denis ★★
New hotel. Mon-Thu add £10 per person per night
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

Hotel Godefroy ★★
Five stops to the Arc de Triomphe
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

Forest Hill Bougival ★★★
20-minute drive to Versailles
RO £24 £84 £107 £15 1

Hotel de Dion Bouton ★★
Close to La Défense, overlooking the Seine BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

Hotel Espace Champerret ★★
Recently renovated, direct line to Opera BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

Balladins Alexandrine Opera ★★
Walk to major department stores
RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

Climat Gare de l'Est ★★
Modem hotel, close to Eurostar terminal RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

Hotel la Regence ★★
Traditional, close to La Défense
BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

Hotel Savoy ★★
Quiet location in Clichy close to metro BB £29 £89 £112 £17 1

Jardin de Paris République ★★
Close to the lively Place de la République RO £29 £89 £112 £17 1

Amarys Lamarck ★★
Near Montmartre, renovated hotel
RO £29 £89 £112 £18 1

Comfort Inn Porte de Clichy ★★★
Restaurant and piano bar
RO £29 £89 £112 £18 1

Neuilly Park ★★★
Quiet sidestreet in fashionable Neuilly BB £29 £89 £112 £19 1

Princesse Isabelle ★★★
Free access to fitness centre
BB £29 £89 £112 £19 1

Hotel Europe ★★★
In the smart, suburb of Clichy
BB £29 £89 £112 £19 1

Hotel Syjac ★★★
Modern hotel, overlooking the Seine
BB £29 £89 £112 £19 1

Climat Montmartre ★★
Close to Montmartre
RO £29 £89 £112 £19 1

Hotel Amadeus ★★
Convenient for the Eiffel Tower
BB £29 £89 £112 £19 1

Campanile Louis Blanc ★★
Close to the Eurostar terminal
RO £29 £89 £112 £19 1

Hotel de Neuville ★★★
Former 19th century mansion
RO £31 £91 £114 £20 1

Forest Hill la Villette ★★★
Opposite the Cité des Sciences
RO £32 £92 £115 £21 1

Jardin de Paris Montmartre ★★
Close to the Sacre Coeur
BB £34 £94 £117 £22 1

Hotel Etoile Maillot ★★★
Close to the Arc de Triomphe
BB £39 £99 £117 £22 1

Comfort Inn Mouffetard ★★★
Near the heart of the Latin Quarter
BB £39 £99 £117 £26 1

Duquesne Eiffel ★★★
Walking distance of Eiffel Tower
BB £39 £99 £117 £28 1

St Paul ★★★
Dates back in part to the 17th century BB £44 £104 £127 £31 1

Jardin de Paris Marais ★★★
In the heart of the historic Marais
BB £44 £104 £127 £31 1

Hotel Trianon Rive Gauche ★★★
Charming, traditional Left Bank hotel
BB £44 £104 £127 £31 1

St James & Albany ★★★★
Opposite the Tuileries, close to Louvre BB £49 £109 £132 £35 —

Pavillon Bastille ★★★
Opposite the new Opera House
BB £49 £109 £132 £37 —

Terrass Hotel ★★★★
Good location, on the edge of Montmartre BB £59 £119 £142 £44 1

Relais St Jacques ★★★★
Close to the Jardin de Luxembourg
BB £59 £119 £142 £44 —

Elysées Regencia ★★★★
Close to Champs Elysées
BB £64 £124 £147 £50 1

Pergolese ★★★★
Designer decor, created by Hermes
BB £64 £124 £147 £50 1

Hotel Stendhal ★★★★
Close to the Place Vendôme
BB £69 £129 £152 £56 1

AMSTERDAM

Tulip Inn Oosterpark ★★★
Close to Tropical Museum
BB £39 £99 £126 £25 1

Inntel Zaandam ★★★★
Close to fishing village of Volendam
BB £39 £99 £126 £25 1

Galaxy Hotel ★★★★
Modern, central hotel, free parking
BB £39 £99 £126 £25 1

Jolly Hotel Carlton ★★★★
Opposite flower market and canal
BB £44 £104 £131 £30 1

Barbizon Palace ★★★★★
Central hotel with Michelin-starred restaurant BB £54 £114 £141 £45 1

BRUGES

Ibis Centrum ★★★
Within walking distance of centre
BB £34 £94 n/a £21 1

Academie ★★★★
Close to the Lake of Love
BB £39 £99 n/a £25 1

Grand Hotel Oude Burg ★★★
Close to the magnificent belfry
BB £39 £99 n/a £25 1

Novotel Centrum ★★★
Short walk to Lake of Love
BB £39 £99 n/a £30 2

Navarra ★★★★
Former Consul residence
BB £39 £99 n/a £30 2

BRUSSELS

Mercure Royal Crown ★★★★
Opposite the Botanical Gardens
RO £34 £94 £124 £21 1

Delta ★★★★
Modern, excellent location
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 1

Diplomat ★★★★
Close to the Avenue Louise
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 1

Leopold ★★★★
Gastronomic restaurant. Mon-Thu £20 per person per night
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 1

Clubhouse ★★★★
Central and stylish hotel. Mon-Thu £5 per person per night
BB £39 £99 £129 £25 2

GHENT

Ibis Opera ★★★
Close to the medieval centre
RO £29 £89 n/a £19 1

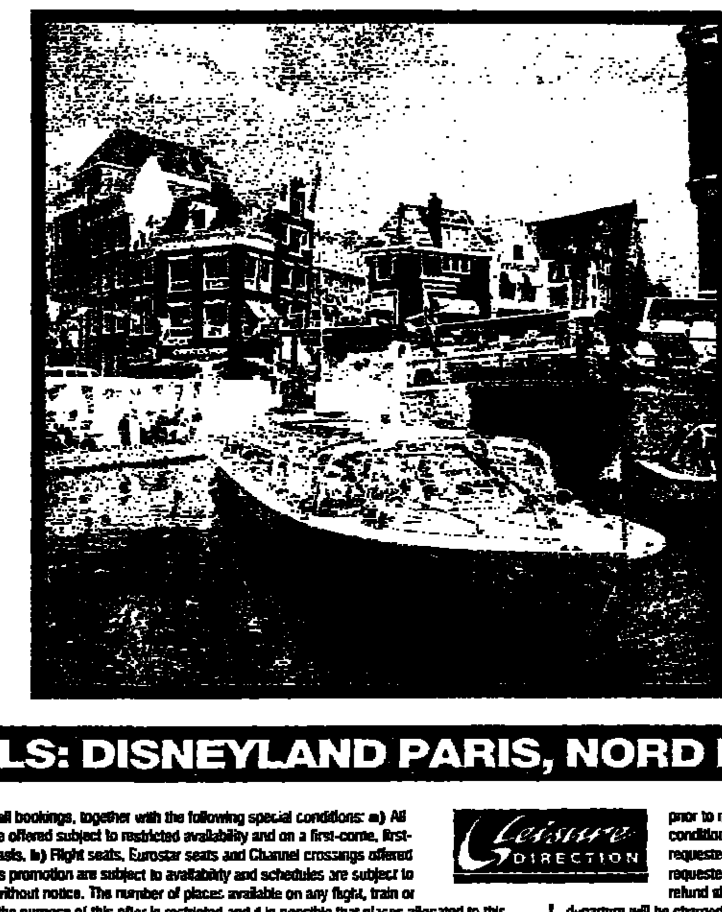
Novotel Centrum ★★★
Close to the Belfry and Cathedral
RO £44 £104 n/a £34 2

ANTWERP

Ibis Centrum ★★★
In the heart of the historic city
RO £34 £94 n/a £2T 1

Novotel Noord ★★★
Seven km north of the centre
RO £34 £94 n/a £21 2

BB = Bed and breakfast
RO = Room only



HOW TO TRAVEL

THREE WAYS TO TRAVEL

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Prices quoted are per person, based on one car and four adults sharing two rooms, travelling on Le Shuttle (with the exception of Ireland which is Stena Line and Normandy/Brittany which is with Brittany Ferries).

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Prices are based on standard class return travel from London Waterloo or Ashford International, Kent and are subject to a minimum stay of two nights when travelling out between Sun-Thurs, inclusive. But you can stay for one night on Friday or Saturday.

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Prices are per person, based on two adults sharing a twin or double room and travelling on selected return scheduled flights from London. Hotel transfers are not included. Our specially negotiated fares apply to restricted space on designated flights when your break includes either a Saturday night or a minimum of two nights stay. Some airlines specify a minimum of three nights stay midweek. Call Leisure Direction for details and supplements. Regional air departures from Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow are available at a supplement. All prices include airport taxes.

CHILDREN

By Car: Where free child places are indicated, this number of children under 12 will travel free of charge on all EuroDrive breaks when sharing with two adults. Children not sharing with two adults, pay the full price.

By Eurostar: When free child places are indicated, this number of children under 12 pay the adult first night price, including any applicable travel supplement, minus the additional night price for the hotel. The child price applies when sharing with two adults. Children not sharing will pay the full adult price. Children up to three years old can travel free if they sit on the lap of an accompanying adult.

By Air: Child prices are calculated as per Eurostar. Except children under two pay £25 each and will be expected to sit on the lap of an accompanying adult.

SUPPLEMENTS

£15 pp weekend supplement Eurostar
£10 pp supplement for car with two/three passengers. Additional supplements apply on Brittany and Stena on selected departures. Leisure Direction will advise you of these when you book.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

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0181 324 3003

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IATA

CHANGING TIMES

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

TOKYO: International women's marathon: 1, M Ito (Japan) 2hr 27min 45sec; 2, J Chepchumba (Ken) 2:28 02; 3, J Salumae (Est) 2:28.23; 4, F Roba (Eth) 2:30.39; 5, E Meyer (SA) 2:31.00.

CHELTENHAM: Midland cross-country championship: Men (7 miles): 1, P Rowland (Notts) 36min 30sec; 2, G Cartwright (Tipton) 36:41; 3, D Walmsley (Bourton Road Runners) 36:59. Teams: 1, Tipton 114pts; 2, Mansfield 135; 3, Severn 188. Women (5 miles): E Foster (Charnwood) 30min 28sec; 2, C Mottram (Gloucester) 31:32; 3, S Harper (Bourton Road Runners) 31:34. Teams: 1, Cheltenham 29pts; 2, Bourton 36; 3, Royal Sutton Coldfield 39

KEIGHLEY, West Yorkshire: Rivock Edge Hill race (10m, 1,500ft): Men: 1, S Wills (Todmorden) 1hr 07min 25sec (course record); 2, A Trigg (Glossopdale) 1:08:07; 3, Phil Sheard (Pudsey and Bramley) 1:08:29; 4, S Oldfield (Bradford Airedale, M40) 1:09:44; 5, G Oldfield (Bradford Airedale) 1:10:08; 6, G Schofield (Horwich, M40) 1:11.20. Over-45: M Pickering (Ilkley) 1:13.33. Over-50: D Tait (Dark Peak) 1:20:43. Women: 1, C Greenwood (Bingley, 39th) 1hr 18min 44sec (course record); 2, L Ball (Valley Striders, W40) 1:26:41; 3, P Oldfield (Bradford Airedale, W40) 1:28:29

BADMINTON

BATH: Friends Provident British Grand Slam tournament: Men: First round: D Hall (Essex) bt M Tripp (Sussex) 15-9, 15-5; B Williams (Avon) bt S Foster (Yorkshire) 15-3, 15-2; M Edge (Lancashire) bt B Rockhart (Scot) 15-12, 17-18, R Nock (Gloucestershire) bt M Hughes (Wales) 15-10, 15-3; G Hurrell (Hampshire) bt L Clapham (Derbyshire) 15-12, 15-3; J Mailer (Scot) bt P Jeffrey (Essex) 15-8, 15-5; P Bush (Wiltshire) bt A South (Nottinghamshire) 15-5, 15-4; P Knowles (Kent) bt C Fenton (Yorkshire) 15-0, 9-15, 15-8; P Hinder (Wiltshire) bt J Lang (Avon) 15-3, 15-8; A Bush (Wiltshire) bt C Dawes (Wales) 12-15, 15-3, 15-12; K Jones (Wiltshire) bt M Scholes (Surrey) 17-16, 15-3, M Shuker (Hampshire) bt D Lindley (Nottinghamshire) 15-6, 12-15, 15-7; S Bish (Essex) bt M Forshaw (Cheshire) 15-9, 15-9; S Pandya (Staffordshire) bt R Doling (Kent) 14-18, 15-6, 15-12; C Haughton (Lancashire) bt A Thitthorpe (Hampshire) 15-5, 15-5, S Paisley (Scot) bt S Wardell (Surrey) 15-10, 15-4. Second round: Hall bt Williams 15-8, 15-3, P Bush bt Mailer 11-15, 15-4, 15-3; Knowles bt Bish 15-12, 15-8; Pandya bt Paisley 15-5, 15-8; Edge bt Hinder 15-12, 15-3, Shuker bt Jones 15-13, 15-11, Nock bt Hurrell 15-9, 15-9; Haughton bt A Bush 9-15, 15-2, 15-7. Quarter-finals: Hall bt Edge 15-10, 15-7, Nock bt Shuker 2-15, 15-6, 15-7: Knowles bt P Bush 15-9, 15-5, Haughton bt Pandya 7-1 ret. Semi-finals: Hall bt Nock 15-8, 15-12 Knowles bt Haughton 15-7, 15-12. Women: First round: K McEwan (Scot) bt N Muni (Hertfordshire) 11-8, 11-2; E Cann (Jersey) bt K Brydon (Buckinghamshire) 10-12, 11-7, 11-5; G Martin (Scot) bt K Howell (Wales) 11-1, 11-2; L Paine (Sussex) bt D Le Feuvre (Jersey) 11-5, 11-6, T Hallam (Staffordshire) bt H Johnson (Sussex) 11-3, 11-1, R Pantaney (Gloucestershire) bt T Middleton (Kent) 11-2, 11-8. Second round: J Pittard (Warwickshire) bt C Coombs (Hertfordshire) 11-2, 11-2; Martin bt P Hanson (Essex) 11-5, 11-5, T Dineen (Essex) bt Paine 11-7, 11-3; K Morgan (Wales) bt Hallam 11-4, 11-4; E Riordan (Warwickshire) bt McEwan 3-11, 11-8, 11-6; Pantaney bt L Atkinson (Staffordshire) 11-2, 11-2; Cann bt A Watts (Surrey) 11-0, 11-0; J Mann (Warwickshire) bt J Wilmott (Yorkshire) 12-10, 11-2. Quarter-finals: Morgan bt Riordan 11-2, 11-0; Pantaney bt Cann 11-4, 11-3; Dineen bt Martin 11-4, 11-7, Mann bt Pittard 11-5, 11-4. Semi-finals: Mann bt Dineen 11-7, 11-3, Morgan bt Pantaney 11-3, 11-5

BOBSLEIGHING

WINTERBERG, Germany: World Cup event (heat times in brackets): Two-man: 1, P Lueders and D MacEachern (Can) 1min 52.25sec (56 16sec, 56 09); 2, C Langen and O Hampel (Ger) 1:52.31 (56.37, 55.94); 3, R Spies and S Peter (Ger) 1:52.60 (56.55, 56 05); 4, G Huber and A Tartaglia (It) 1:52.60 (56.44, 56 16); 5, R Goesch and G Acklin (Switz) 1:52.66 (56.34, 56 32); 6, S Dosthaler and T Platzer (Ger) 1:52.83 (56.50, 56.33), 7, B Shimer and C Minton (US) 1:52.92 (56 49, 56.43); 8, J Herberich and R Olesen (US) 1:52.94 (56.51, 56.43). 9, S Prusis and J Bsins (Lat) 1:53.00 (56.49, 56 51), 10, H Schoesser and E Arnold (Austria) 1:53.08 (56.68, 56.40). Four-man: 1, United States I (Shimer, Minton, R Jones, G Hines) 1min 49 44sec; 2, Germany I (H Czudaj, U Lehmann, T Voss, A Szelig) 1:49 46; 3, Great Britain I (S Olsson, D Ward, C Rumbolt, P Attwood) 1:49.52; 4, Germany II (D Wiese, M Jakobs, M Liekmeier, S Peter) 1:49 54; 5, Germany III (W Hoppe, M Knigge, R Hannemann, C Embach) 1:49 75. 6, Austria I (H Schoesser, P Leismueller, E Arnold, M Schuetzenauer) 1:49.84. Leading World Cup positions (after two rounds): 1, H Czudaj (Ger) 62pts; 2, S Olsson (GB) 58; 3 equal, H Schoesser (Austria) and P Lueders (Can) 56; 5, B Shimer (US) 55; 6, M Rohner (Switz) 55; 7, D Wiese (Ger) 53, 8, C Reich (Switz) 46

BOWLS

LIBERTY TROPHY: Group one: Durham 126 Cumbria 103; Lancashire 108 Northumberland 120. Group two: Lincolnshire 108 Derbyshire 106; Yorkshire 107 Nottinghamshire 139. Group three: Northamptonshire 185 Bedfordshire 79; Warwickshire 122 Leicestershire 150. Group four: Hertfordshire 160 Suffolk 90; Norfolk 120 Cambridgeshire 124. Group five: Gloucestershire 108 Wiltshire 113, Herefordshire 107 Worcestershire 102. Group six: Devon 124 Somerset 116; Dorset 134 Cornwall 106. Group seven: Berkshire 108 Hampshire 107; Sussex 147 Buckinghamshire 103. Group eight: Essex 119 Kent 106; Middlesex 97 Surrey 128

EWBA INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: First round: Somerset bt Devon 116-110

CIS SCOTTISH INDOOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Section A: Edinburgh 75 Midlothian 73; East Lothian 88 Ayre 69; Bainfield 80 Lanarkshire 86. Section B: West Lothian 82 Blantyre 83, Auchinleck 106 Aberdeen 58, Prestwick 93 Turriff 78. First division: East section: Garioch 68 Fraserburgh 77; East Fife 90 Balbardie 56; Dundee 82 Stirling 76. West section: Nithsdale 76 Irvine 82; Galleon 81 Allander 67; Cumbernauld 96 Paisley 84.

BOXING

NORWICH: World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation intercontinental light welterweight championships: J Thaxton (Norwich, holder) bt R Bäus (Lat) pts. Light-middleweight (4rnds): A Owaidas (Sheffield) bt M Alexander (Doncaster) pts. Bantamweight: S Oates (London) bt G Hickman (Sunderland) pts. Super-middleweight (6rnds): M Bowen (West Ham) bt P Mason (Hartlepool) rsc 2nd. Super-middleweight (6rnds): T Owoh (Belsize Park) bt S Hamer (Margate) pts Super-middleweight (4rnds). K Burton (Doncaster) drew with W Barnes (Crouch End); P Bowen (West Ham) bt I Toby (Newcastle) rsc 4th. Light-middleweight (6rnds): W Alexander (Croydon) bt J Janes (Wales) rsc 1st.

BETHNAL GREEN: World Boxing Union lightweight championship (vacant): C *Dunne (Holloway) bt Z Kaoloacol (Hun) pts*. Light-middleweight: M Takt (Harrow) bt M Sawyer (Cardiff) pts. Featherweight: A Moon (Liverpool) drew with E Parsley (Bloxwich). Welterweight: P Burns (Liverpool) bt R Newby (Nottingham) pts. Bantamweight: J Armour (Chatham) bt E Blake (Worcester) pts.

NOVARA, Italy: European Boxing Union welterweight championship (vacant): M Piccirillo (It) bt G McCreash (GB) rsc 9th.

BERCK-SUR-MER, France: European super-bantamweight championship (vacant): F Benichou (Fr) bt M Kratsev (Bul) lko 8th.

CURLING

EDINBURGH: International tournament: Men: Semi-finals: M Combe (Perth) bt S MacNee (Murrayfield) 9-2; T Brewster (Perth) bt D Dryburgh (Aviemore) 7-1. Final: Combe bt Brewster 6-2. Women: Semi-finals: K Hay (Perth) bt R Martin (Greenacres) 8-5; J Ewart (Forfar) bt J Hepburn (Murrayfield) 8-5. Final: Hay bt Ewart 7-1.

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: British CCA International (Lea Valley circuit, Eastway, East London, 29km): 1, D Baker (Team GT) 57min 9sec; 2, R Hammond (Palmans) same time; 3, J Arentz (Ger) at 2sec; 4, K Volkaerts (Bel); 5, M Guy (Giant International) 6sec; 6, S Blunt (GB) 7sec. Weaver Valley CC (Pignut Hill, Northwich, 12 miles): 1, S Green (Oldham Century RC) 1hr 01min 32sec; 2, M Ellis (Atom Elite RT) 2:07; 3, C Meyman (Rhyl CC) 2:29. Somer Valley CC (Radstock, Somerset, 10 miles): 1, J Richardson (Team Sports Coaching) 55min 44sec; 2, M James, (Coventry Olympic) 1:20; 3, C Denning (Sports Coaching) 4:52. Dare Valley CC (Aberdare, 12 miles): 1, J Winn (Cwmcarn Paragon) 51min 00sec; 2, G Stevens (Abergavenny RC) 1:25; 3, M Hughes-Dowdle (VC Phoenix) 2:20. Ace RT (Notts and Derby League, Sharley Park, Clay Cross, 10 miles): 1, T Gould (Schwinn-Toyota) 51min 25sec; 2, J Taylor (Giant-SEP) 1:30; 3, P Wright (Ace RT) 1:48. Horwich CC (Levenshulme Park, Bolton, 10 miles): 1, O Becklnsale (Scott UK) 59min 30sec; 2, I Cuthbertson (Raleigh) 2sec; 3, P Whatmough (ABC Centreville) 5:00. Catford CC (Darenth Country Park, near Dartford, 14 miles): 1, B Curtis (Corridori) 52min 07sec; 2, C Davey (Octagon VC) 1:12; 3, V Stone (Liphook Cycles) 2:59. Dorset Rough Riders (North Canford Heath, 12 miles): 1, J Stow (Dorset Rough Riders) 1hr 10min 30sec; 2, R Rumbelow (Hargroves Cycles) 25sec; 3, J Blann (Liphook Cycles) 30. West Suffolk Wheelers (Culford, near Bury St Edmunds, 10 miles): 1, I Newby (Diss and District Wheelers) 54min 30sec; 2, J Gildow (Ipswich BC) 1:00; 3, N Ainsworth (Pro Circuit MTB) 1:45; Spalding CC (Bourne Woods, 11 miles): 1, S Barron (VC Lincoln) 57min 18sec; 2, I Oxborough (VC Lincoln) 1:26; 3, P O'Donovan (Univega) 1:49.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Tyrone 1-8 Offaly 1-10; Dublin 2-14 Cavan 1-8; Monaghan 2-13 Wexford 1-8, Kerry 1-7 Sligo 0-11; Roscommon 2-14 Waterford 0-6; Down 1-13 Cork 1-2; Limerick 0-6 Clare 0-21; Kildare 0-13 Wicklow 0-10; Louth 1-8 Galway 1-12; Leitrim 3-20 Kilkenny 0-4; Laois 0-9 Fermanagh 0-8; Westmeath 2-8 Armagh 1-11; London 2-7 Longford 3-12; Antrim 1-8 Derry 0-14; Donegal 1-8 Meath 1-8.

GOLF

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Leading final scores (Australia unless stated): 274: L Westwood (GB) 68, 66, 68, 72, G Norman 68, 67, 66, 73 (Westwood won on fourth play-off hole). 275: C Parry 70, 70, 70, 65. 277: S Leaney 66, 72, 72, 67. 279: N O'Hern 67, 66, 74, 72. 280: A Coltart (GB) 65, 74, 70, 71. 282: P Mickelson (US) 69, 68, 73, 72; R Allenby 68, 74, 74, 66; V Singh (Fiji) 73, 69, 69, 71. 283: P Devenport (NZ) 69, 70, 70, 74; S Allan 66, 70, 75, 72. 284: J-L Guepy (Fr) 72, 72, 71, 69. 285: R Damron (US) 68, 72, 70, 75; P Senior 68, 73, 74, 70.

HARARE: Zimbabwe Open: Leading final scores (South Africa unless stated): 269: N Price (Zim) 68, 67, 66, 68. 271: M McNulty (Zim) 68, 68, 66, 69; B Pappas 70, 67, 66, 68. 272: T van der Walt 68, 69, 65, 70. 273: A Cruse 70, 68, 67, 68. 274: J Kingston 65, 67, 75, 67. 275: N Kamungeremu (Zim) 68, 74, 65, 68. 277: W Coetsee 69, 68, 68, 72.

GYMNASTICS

ZURICH: World Cup event: Men: Floor: 1, Li Xiaopeng (China) 9.450pts; 2, A Bondarenko (Russ) 9.325; 3, A Nemov (Russ) 9.400; 4, V Rudnitski (Bela) 9.400; 5, Zhang Jinjing (China) 9.350. Pommel horse: 1, E Poujade (Fr) 9.700; 2, Zhang *9.625; 3, M Urzica (Rom) 9.550; 3, V Belenki* (Ger) 9.550; 4, A Berech (Ukr) 9.425. Rings: 1, S Csollany (Hun) 9.700; 2, I Ivankov (Bela) 9.500; 3, Belenki 9.500; 4, S Charkov (Ger) 9.425; 5, D Tambakos (Gr) 9.425. Vault: 1, S Fedorchenko (Kaz) 9.600; 2, Y Hong Chul (S Kor) 9.625, 3, Nemov 9.500; 4, A Bondarenko (Russ) 9.462, 5, D Rehm (Switz) 9.312. Parallel bars: 1, Zhang 9.625; 2, Li 9.550; 3, Ivankov 9.500; 4, A Vivo (Sp) 9.500; 5, M Petkovsek (Slo) 9.475. High bar: 1, J Carballo (Sp) 9.600; 2, Ivankov 9.575; 3, Nemov 9.375, 4, Beresch 9.375; 5, Rehm 9.250. Women: Beam: 1, Ku Yuanyuan (China) 9.750; 2, L Fumon (Fr) 8.750, 3, O Teslenko (Ukr) 9.525; 4, S Khorkina (Russ) 9.375; 5, E Piskun (Bela) 9.275. Floor: 1, Khorkina 9.775, 2, Fumon 9.775; 3, A Polozkova (Bela) 9.450; 4, E *Produnova (Russ)* 9.025; 5, N Schnell (Switz) 8.875. Vault: 1, Ku 9.575; 2, Khorkina 9.400; 3, A Varga (Hun) 9.075; 4, Schnell 8.862; 5, Piskun 8.837.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Vancouver 5 Boston 2; Philadelphia 4 New York Islanders 1; Colorado 3 Florida 2; Carolina 2 Tampa Bay 0; New York Rangers 3 Buffalo 3, Detroit 2 Montreal 0; Anaheim 3 Edmonton 1; New Jersey 4 San Jose 2. Saturday: Washington 1 Boston 1; Colorado 3 Carolina 2; New York Islanders 4 St Louis 2; Philadelphia 3 Tampa Bay 3; Pittsburgh 6 Montreal 3; Chicago 3 Ottawa 2; Vancouver 4 Toronto 2; Dallas 5 Phoenix 2; Calgary 3 Anaheim 2 (OT); Los Angeles 4 New Jersey 1.

Eastern Conference
Atlantic division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
New Jersey	17	8	0	34	73	46
Philadelphia	15	8	4	34	79	62
Washington	13	10	4	30	80	71
NY Islanders	11	11	4	26	70	70
NY Rangers	8	11	8	24	70	75
Florida	8	13	4	20	80	76
Tampa Bay	4	17	4	12	50	86
Northeast division						
Montreal	15	9	3	33	85	67
Pittsburgh	14	9	5	33	82	71
Boston	11	11	5	27	66	75
Carolina	10	13	4	24	72	78
Ottawa	10	13	4	24	68	68
Buffalo	7	12	5	19	63	73

Western Conference
Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Dallas	18	7	4	40	95	65
Detroit	17	8	4	38	90	60
St Louis	15	9	3	33	78	61
Phoenix	12	11	2	26	73	71
Chicago	10	13	4	24	59	69
Toronto	8	13	3	19	47	67
Pacific division						
Colorado	13	6	8	34	80	68
Los Angeles	12	9	5	29	85	71
Anaheim	11	12	5	27	65	76
Vancouver	9	14	3	21	74	87
San Jose	9	16	2	20	70	82
Edmonton	7	13	6	20	58	81
Calgary	5	16	7	17	67	85

SUPERLEAGUE: Bracknell Bees 5 Ayr Scottish Eagles 4 (OT); Nottingham Panthers 3 Basingstoke Bison 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottingham	13	8	2	3	49	37	18
Manchester	13	7	2	4	50	41	17
*Sheffield	12	6	1	5	51	37	14
Ayr	11	6	0	5	41	35	14
*Bracknell	12	5	1	6	39	51	12
Basingstoke	12	4	2	6	39	45	11
*Cardiff	9	4	2	3	30	32	10
*Newcastle	12	2	0	10	26	57	4

* not including last night's matches

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Mellor 17 Sheffield University 2; Stockport 13 Poynton 8. Postponed: Cheadle Hulme v Hulmeians; Timperley v Heaton Mersey; Old Waconians v Cheadle.

LUGE

KOENIGSSEE, Germany: World Cup event (heat times in brackets). Men: Singles: 1, A Zoeggeler (It) (48.98sec, 48 177) 1min 36.275sec, 2, N Huber (It) (48 093, 48 266) 1:36 359; 3, M Prock (Austria) (48 040, 48.480) 1:36 520; 4, R Fegg (Ger) (48.219, 48.329) 1:36 548; 5, A Demtschenko (Russ) (48.242, 48 458) 1:36.700. Doubles: 1, M Grimette and B Martin (US) (44 758sec, 45.495) 1min 30.253sec; 2, G Plankensteiner and O Haselrieder (It) (44 777, 45.531) 1:30 308. 3, S Skel and S Woeller (Ger) (44 785, 45 582) 1:30 347; 4, T Schiegl and M Schiegl (Austria) (44.877, 45.627) 1:30.504; 5, C Thorpe and G Sheer (US) (45 091, 45 488) 1:30.599. Women: Singles: 1, A Tagwerker (Austria) (44.928sec, 45.488) 1min 31 416sec; 2, S Kraushaar (Ger) (45.240, 46.332) 1:31.572; 3, A Neuner (Austria) (45.203, 46.475) 1:31 678, 4, G Weissensteiner (It) (45.330, 46 424) 1:31.754; 5, N Oblercher (It) (45.244, 46.526) 1:31.770

POWERBOATING

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: Class One world offshore championship: L Pharaon (Saudi Arabia), champion

ROWING

READING: British indoor championships: Men: Open: 1, S Forster (Cambridge) 5min 52sec; 2, L Atrill (ARA) 05:56; 3, G Searle (Molesey) 05:57. Under-23: 1, E Coode (Oxford) 06min 00sec; 2, T Garbett (Leander) 06.01, 3, T Ayer (Oxford) 06 02. Open lightweight: 1, I Watson (Holmes Place, Putney) 06:13, 2, D Darley (Cambridge) 06:18; 3, N Strange (Leander) 06.21. Age classes: 30-39: C Greenaway (Kingston) 5min 56sec. 30-39: Lightweight: K Yost (Preston) 6min 22sec. 40-44: N Glover (Metropolitan Police) 6min 14sec. 45-49: J Mottram (Free Press) 6min 28sec. 40-49: Lightweight: S Powell (Derby) 6min 37sec. 50-54: P Widdowson (Exeter) 6min 33sec. 50-59: N Frost (Upper Thames) 6min 38sec. 50-59: Lightweight: S Morris (Wallingford) 6min 43sec. 60-64: A Lindsay (Royal Military College of Science) 7min 05sec. 65-69: H Leah (Cheadle Hulme) 7min 16sec. 60-69: Lightweight: G Knight (Harrowgate) 7min 07sec. 70 plus: R Lapping (Broadgate Club, London) 8min 30sec. Lightweight: H Welsh (Canterbury) 8min 14sec. Junior 18: R Egington (Warrington) 6min 11sec. Junior 18: Lightweight: *T Johnstone (Rob Roy) 8min 33sec*. Women: Open: K Templeton (Thames) 6min 51sec.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley 8 Askam 10; Heworth 10 Oldham St Anne's 10, Leigh Miners 38 Lock Lane 14; Saddleworth 0 Egremont 20, Walney Central 40 Mayfield 0. First division: Blackbrook 4 Shaw Cross 8; Eastmoor 6 Milford 26; Millom 34 Leigh East 4; Moldgreen 14 East Leeds 9, Skirlaugh 50 Barrow Island 4; Thornhill 12 Redhill 2. Second division: Dewsbury Moor 8 Siddal 8 (abandoned after 57min); Eccles 18 Crosfields 26; Featherstone Amateur 38 York Acorn 8; New Earswick 22 Dodworth 6; *Ovenden 14 Hull Dockers 18*.

TOUR MATCH: Girondins Select XIII 8 South Africa XIII 4 (in Bordeaux).

SHOOTING

LANGKAWI, Malaysia: Commonwealth championships: Smallbore free rifle: Three-positions: 1, C Hector (Eng) 1,238pts; 2, A Razak (Malaysia) 1,236.2; 3, R Law (Scot) 1,218.3. Skeet: 1, M Thompson (Scot) 1,442; 2, K Christos (Cyprus) 1,442; 3, R Thorpe (NZ) 1,442.

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Liverpool Victoria UK Championship: Semi-finals: S Hendry (Scot) bt M *Stephens (Wales) 9-5; R O'Sullivan (Eng)* bt S Lee (Eng) 9-4. Final: Hendry leads O'Sullivan 5-4

PRESTON: UK women's championship: *Final:* K Corr (N Ire) bt L Horsburgh (Scot) 4-3

SPEED SKATING

BERLIN: World Cup event: Men: 1,500m: 1, I Postma (Holl) 1min 49 81sec (world record), 2, M Hersman (Holl) 1 51 35; 3, H Noake (Japan) 1:51 51; 4, R Ritsma (Holl) 1 51.64, 5, A Soendral (Nor) 1:52.52, 6, P Adeberg (Ger) 1:52 59. 5,000m: 1, G Romme (Holl) 6:35.71; 2, R Herade (Nor) 6:37.10; 3, B de Jong (Holl) 6:38 15. 4, K Storelid (Nor) 6 39.73. 5, Ritsma 6.41 48. 6, A Baumgartner (Ger) 6 41 50. Women: 1,500m. 1, G Niemann [illegible] Pechstein (Ger) 2 02 0[illegible] (Austria) 2 02.61; 4, M Timmer [illegible] 2 03.12; 5, S Bachenova (Russ) [illegible] M Tabata (Japan) 2 03 [illegible] 3,000m: [illegible] Pechstein (Ger) 4 10 80 [illegible] Stremmann (Ger) 4 12 24 3 [illegible] (Ger) 4 13 95 4, E Belci (It) 4 15 [illegible] Zijlstra (Holl) 4 17 99; 6 [illegible] 4 18 34

SQUASH

MONACO: Monte Carlo Classic: Semi-finals: S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt E Irving (Aus) 9-5, 10-8 9-0. S Wright (Eng) bt C Jackman (Eng) 9-1, 9-7 ret. Final: Fitz (Aus) bt Wright 9-1, 4-9 9 1, 9-4

TENNIS

GOTHENBURG: Davis Cup: Final: Sweden 5 United States 0 (Sweden names first): J Bjorkman and N Kulti bt T Martin and J Stark 6-4, 6-4, 6-4, Bjorkman bt Stark 6-[illegible] 6-1, M Larsson bt M Chang 7-6 5-7, 6-4

BURBANK, California: HealthSouth-USTA challenger tournament: Second round: S Sargsian (Arm) bt A Reichel (US) 6-2, 6-2. B MacPhie (US) bt A Hunt (NZ) 2-6 6-4, 7-6, T Larkham (Aus) bt C Vinck (Ger) 6-3, 3-6 6-4, M Sinner (Ger) bt G Doyle (Aus) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6, R Jabali (Bri) bt J Salzenstein (US) 6-3, 7-6, A Agassi (US) bt B Coupe (US) 7-5, 6-2; M Sell (US) bt D DiLucia (US) 6-1, 7-5, D Nestor (Can) bt G Basil (Switz) 7-6, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Sargsian bt MacPhie 6-4 3-6, 6-3; Sinner bt Larkham 7-6, 6-0, Agassi bt Jabali 6-1, 6-3 Nestor bt Sell 6-4 4-6 6-2. Semi-finals: Sargsian bt Sinner 6-1, 7-6; Agassi bt Nestor 6-4, 5-7, 6-3

REDBRIDGE: European women's team championship: First division: Great Britain 2 Austria 1 (Great Britain names first: J Pullin lost to B Schwartz 2-6, 1-6, S Smith bt P Wartusch 6-4, 6-2. Pullin and L Woodroffe bt Schwartz and Wartusch 6-4, 7-5). France 3 Sweden 0; Great Britain 1 Sweden 2. Austria 2 France 1

WINTER INDOOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS: Men: Hampshire and Isle of Wight bt Surrey 8-1. Essex bt Yorkshire 5-4 Women: Essex bt Yorkshire 7-2 Surrey bt Warwickshire 7-2

WTA RANKINGS: 1, M Hingis (Switz) 6,264pts 2, J Novotna (Cz) 3,753, 3, L Davenport (US) 3,696, 4 A Coetzer (SA) 3,360; 5, M Seles (US) 2,998. 6, I Majoli (Cro) 2,874, 7, M Pierce (Fr) 2,861; 8, I Spirlea (Rom) 2,577, 9, A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 2,361; 10 M J Fernandez (US) 2,114 11, N Tauziat (Fr) 2,003. 12, C Martinez (Sp) 1,988 13, S Testud (Fr) 1,841

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division Crofton Sportswearhouse 3 Leeds 1 (13-15, 17-15, 15-12, 15-11). Malory Lewisham 3 Liverpool 0 (15-5, 15-9, 15-3); Tooting 3 Polonia Ealing 0 (15-5, 15-4, 15-11), Stoke 0 Sheffield 3 (10-15, 4-15, 11-15), Wessex 3 Whitfield 0 (15-10, 15-0, 15-8)

RUGBY UNION

International matches

England 11 South Africa 29

England: Try: Greenstock. Pens: Catt 2. South Africa: Tries: Andrews, Garvey, Snyman, Swanepoel. Cons: Honiball 2, Montgomery. Pen: Honiball

(at Twickenham)

Wales 7 New Zealand 42

Wales: Try: Walker. Con: N Jenkins. New Zealand: Tries: Cullen 3, Marshall, Randell. *Cons: Mehrtens 4. Pens: Mehrtens 2.* Dropped goal: Z Brooke

(at Wembley)

Yesterday

Ireland 33 Canada 11

Ireland: Tries: Nowlan 2, Costello, Maggs. McGuinness. Con: Elwood. Pens: Elwood 2. Canada: Try: Cardinal. Pens: Rees 2.

(at Lansdowne Road)

Tour match

Saracens 83 Tonga XV 8

Saracens: Tries: Constable 3, Daniel 3, Pienaar 2, R Wallace 2, Bennett, Ravenscroft, Watts. Cons: Singer 5, Lee. Pens: Lee 2. Tonga XV: Try: Halaka. Pen: G Tonga.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Bath 13 Australian Capital Territory 20

Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup

Group A

West Hartlepool 34 Fylde 6

West Hartlepool: Tries: Benson, Connolly, Elwine, Nikora, Vile. Cons: Vile 3. Pen: Vile. Fylde: Pens: Peacock 2

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Wakefield 21 Northampton 14

Group B

Orrell 22 Rotherham 24

Orrell: Try: Heslop. Con: Scott. Pens: Scott 4. Dropped goal: Scott. Rotherham: Tries: Moffatt, Wareham. Con: Moffatt. Pens: Moffatt 4

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Leicester 18 London Irish 16

Group C

Sale 23 Bristol 16

Sale: Tries: Sanderson 2, Howarth. Con: Howarth. Pens: Howarth 2. Bristol: Tries: Dowdney, Yapp. Pens: Burke 2. Att: 1,500

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Coventry 29 Moseley 36

Group D

Cambridge Univ 34 Blackheath 39

Cambridge University: Tries: Goldsmith 2, Walne 2, Denney, Moran. Cons: Moran 2. Blackheath: Tries: Sharples 2, Booth, Braithwaite, M Griffiths, R Smith. Cons: Braithwaite 3. Pen: Braithwaite

London Scottish 26 Bedford 52

London Scottish: Tries: Johnson 2, Lee, Thompson. Cons: Lee 3. Bedford: Tries: Kirkby 2, Murdoch 2, Forster, Murray, Pechey, Pfiugler. Cons: Rayer 6.

Jewson National League

First division

London Welsh 60 Morley 7

London Welsh: Tries: Dawes 2, Roskell 2, Giraud, Marval, David Muckalt, Peacock, Raymond, Shaw. Cons: Raymond 5. Morley: Try: McNeish. Con: Withington.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
L Welsh	11	9	1	1	384	174	19
Worcester	11	9	0	2	365	128	18
Rugby	10	8	0	2	303	168	16
Leeds	*10*	*7*	*1*	*2*	*249*	*191*	*15*
Otley	11	7	0	4	213	222	14
Newbury	10	6	0	4	254	189	12
Reading	11	6	0	5	268	277	12
Rosslyn Park	10	5	1	4	176	169	11
Liverpool St H	10	4	1	5	145	238	9
Wharfedale	11	4	0	7	200	294	8
Nottingham	10	3	0	7	172	238	6
Harrogate	10	2	0	8	205	239	4
Lydney	11	1	0	10	120	214	2
Morley	12	1	0	11	143	478	2

Second division north

Hinckley 22 Aspatria 5

POSTPONED: Nuneaton v Stourbridge.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	10	9	0	1	335	137	18
Manchester	10	7	2	1	343	231	16
Kendal	10	6	1	3	221	134	13
Sandal	10	6	1	3	214	206	13
Nuneaton	9	6	0	3	188	167	12
Sedgley Park	10	5	1	4	253	215	11
Sheffield	10	5	0	5	279	215	10
Walsall	10	4	1	5	215	258	9
Stourbridge	9	4	0	5	202	193	8
Preston Grass	10	3	1	6	168	198	7
Hinckley	10	3	0	7	185	276	6
Aspatria	10	3	0	7	186	393	6
Lichfield	10	2	1	7	143	209	5
Winnington P	10	2	0	8	178	278	4

Second division south

Cheltenham 27 Barking 33
Havant 15 Camberley 41
Henley 29 Redruth 9
North Walsham 24 Met Police 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Camberley	10	9	0	1	314	159	18
Henley	10	9	0	1	261	156	18
Barking	10	7	0	3	301	199	14
Tabard	10	6	0	4	188	148	12
Esher	10	6	0	4	213	199	12
N Walsham	10	6	0	4	168	157	12
Clifton	10	6	0	4	158	184	12
Cheltenham	10	4	1	5	204	223	9
Bridgwater	10	4	0	6	215	301	8
Havant	10	3	1	6	139	208	7
Redruth	10	3	0	7	236	222	6
Weston-s-M	10	3	0	7	141	202	6
Plymouth	10	2	0	8	187	242	4
Met Police	10	1	0	9	140	265	2

SOUTH WEST: First division: Berry Hill 22 High Wycombe 10.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: *Southend 3 Sudbury 33.*

NORTH: First division: Hull Ionians 22 West Park Bramhope 10; Middlesbrough 53 Macclesfield 0, Stockton 22 Bridlington 5.

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Pool A: Cumbria 25 Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire 16 (at Penrith), Warwickshire 24 *Durham 18 (at Rugby). Pool B*: Leicestershire 18 Cheshire 38 (at Syston); North Midlands 6 Lancashire 13 (at Stourbridge). Pool C: Northumberland 20 Staffordshire 13 (at Morpeth); Yorkshire 23 East Midlands 0 (at Sheffield). South: Pool A: Cornwall 25 Sussex 5 (at Redruth). Pool B: Dorset and Wiltshire 19 Gloucestershire 17 (at Bournemouth); Hertfordshire 57 Berkshire 5 (at Tabard). Pool C: Hampshire 25 Kent 23 (at US Portsmouth): Surrey 26 Buckinghamshire 18 (at Imber Court). Pool D: Devon 22 Middlesex 15 (at Tiverton); Oxfordshire 21 Somerset 41 (at Banbury).

Welsh League

First division

Bonymaen 28 Newbridge 3

Bonymaen: Tries: A Davies, N Evans, Hawkins, Young. Con: S Davies. Pens: S Davies 2. Newbridge: Pen: J Williams.

Merthyr 20 Dunvant 20

Merthyr: Tries: Bryant, Tidey. Cons: Hancox 2. Pens: Hancox 2. Dunvant: Tries: Daniel 2, Kills. Con: M Thomas. Pen: M *Thomas.*

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Caerphilly 18 Llandovery 10.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Caerphilly	14	12	0	2	480	208	61	9	45
Aberavon	14	11	2	1	381	230	55	5	40
Treorchy	14	10	0	4	385	248	55	7	37
SW Police	14	7	0	7	340	252	49	7	28
Merthyr	14	7	3	4	281	259	41	3	27
Llandovery	14	7	0	7	300	256	38	4	25
Cross Keys	13	7	1	5	260	248	27	2	24
Dunvant	14	6	1	7	290	354	33	2	21
Bonymaen	14	6	0	8	230	231	29	2	20
Blackwood	14	6	0	8	253	324	34	2	20
Cardiff Inst	14	4	0	10	334	385	45	8	20
Newbridge	14	6	0	8	218	272	19	1	19
Abertillery	14	5	1	8	234	285	28	2	18
Maesteg	13	5	0	8	236	317	22	1	18
Rumney	13	5	1	7	250	358	31	0	16
Pontypool	13	1	1	11	214	461	26	1	5

Tennents Premiership

First division

Boroughmuir 13 Heriot's FP 5

Boroughmuir: Tries: Aitken, C Finney. Pen: Aitken. Heriot's FP: Try: Turnbull.

(abandoned after 65min)

Edinburgh Acads 0 Melrose 20

Melrose: Tries: Murray, Nichol, Purves. Con: Shepherd. Pen: Shepherd

Jed-Forest 31 Watsonians 15

Jed-Forest: Tries: M Brown, C Brown, Laidlow, C Richards. Con: C Richards. Pens: C Richards 3. Watsonians: Tries: Mather, Penny. Con: D Hodge. Pen: D Hodge.

Stirling County 27 Hawick 12

Stirling County: Tries: Flockhart 2, McLaren. Cons: M McKenzie 3. Pen: M McKenzie. Dropped goal: M McKenzie. Hawick: Tries: Davidson, Harris. Con: Welsh

POSTPONED: Currie v West of Scotland.

Second division

Biggar 25 Kilmarnock 22

Biggar: Tries: R McAlpine, E McAlpine, Wilson. Cons: Lavery 2. Pens: Lavery 2. Kilmarnock: Tries: Penalty, Stewart, Welsh. Cons: Stewart 2. Pen: Stewart.

Gala 28 Kirkcaldy 13

Gala: Tries: C Paterson, C Townsend. Cons: Parker 2. Pens: Parker 4. Kirkcaldy: Try: Trowartha. Con: J Mitchell. Pens: J Mitchell 2.

Glasgow Hawks 36 Dundee HSFP 6

Glasgow Hawks: Tries: Ness 2, Docherty, Hayes, Little. Cons: Hayes 4. Pen: Hayes. Dundee HSFP: Pens: C Milne 2

Kelso 38 Preston Lodge 8

Kelso: Tries: D Baird 2, Aitchison, Dunkley, K Thomson. Cons: Aitchison 4. Pen: Aitchison. Preston Lodge: Pen: Kinross

Musselburgh 8 Peebles 8

Musselburgh: Try: Cringam. Pen: C Livingstone. Peebles: Try: Cleghorn. Pen: Nisbet.

Third division

Ayr 3 Selkirk 10

Ayr: Pen: E Ellis. Selkirk: Try: Hunter. Con: Blair. Pen: Blair

Glasgow S 35 Hillhead/J 34

Glasgow Southern: Tries: Jackson 2, Bryce, Healey, Loakman. Cons: Cossey 2. Pens: Cossey 2. Hillhead/Jordanhill: Tries: Jamieson 3, Gee, McConnel. Cons: B Stewart 3. Pen: B Stewart.

Glenrothes 5 Gordonians 8

Glenrothes: Try: McIver. Gordonians: Pens: Carmichael 2.

POSTPONED: Aberdeen GSFP v Stewartry; Stewart's Melville FP v Grangemouth

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: London Counties Under-21 13 New Zealand Under-21 30 (at Twickenham); Belgium XV 16 Eastern Counties XV 35 (in Brussels)

CLUB MATCHES: Friday: Lydney 13 Clifton 22; Oxford University 43 Cardiff Institute 17. Saturday: Otley 41 Roundhegians 10; Plymouth 24 Penzance 22; Preston Grasshoppers 31 Kirkby Lonsdale 10

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Toulouse 38 Nice 17; Biarritz 14 Montferrand 9; Narbonne 20 La Rochelle 8; Brive 30 Colomiers 35; Dax 19 Béziers 24. Pool two: Stade Français 77 Grenoble 3; Montpellier 3 Pau 19; Bourgoin 30 Perpignan 0; Agen 3 Bègles-Bordeaux 9; Toulon 6 Castres

PETER NICHOLLS

Straining at the leash: competitors in the perpetual British indoor rowing championships in action at the Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading yesterday

CRICKET

Third Test match

Australia v New Zealand

HOBART (fourth day of five): Australia, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 163 runs ahead of New Zealand

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M T G Elliott c Young b McMillan	114
*M A Taylor b O'Connor	18
G S Blewett b Doull	99
M E Waugh c Parore b O'Connor	81
S R Waugh c McMillan b Doull	7
R T Ponting c Parore b Cairns	4
†I A Healy c Young b O'Connor	16
P R Reiffel c Young b Doull	19
S K Warne st Parore b Vettori	14
M S Kasprowicz c Doull b Cairns	20
S H Cook not out	0
Extras (lb 6, w 1, nb 18)	25
Total	400

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-238, 3-238, 4-246, 5-265, 6-291, 7-326, 8-353, 9-400

BOWLING: Doull 33-11-87-3, O'Connor 34-7-101-3; Cairns 35.1-13-86-2; McMillan 15-4-43-1, Astle 12-5-32-0, Vettori 12-1-45-1.

Second Innings

*M A Taylor not out	5
M E Waugh not out	9
Total (no wkt)	14

BOWLING: Doull 3-0-10-0; O'Connor 2-1-1-0; Vettori 1-0-3-0

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Young b Reiffel	31
M J Horne c Elliott b Reiffel	133
†A C Parore lbw b S R Waugh	44
*S P Fleming c Healy b S R Waugh	0
R G Twose lbw b Warne	2
C D McMillan lbw b S R Waugh	2
N J Astle not out	22
C L Cairns not out	10
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 4)	7
Total (6 wkts dec)	251

D L Vettori, S B Doull and S B O'Connor did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60, 2-192, 3-192, 4-195, 5-196, 6-229.

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 13-1-43-0; Reiffel 14-8-27-2; Cook 13-2-50-0; Warne 27-4-81-1, M E Waugh 6-2-17-0; Elliott 1-1-0-0; S R Waugh 9-2-20-3, Blewett 5-1-10-0

Umpires: S Davis (Australia) and R B Tiffin (Zimbabwe)

Second Test match

Pakistan v West Indies

RAWALPINDI (second day of five, Pakistan won toss): Pakistan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 181 runs behind West Indies

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c Shoaib b Azhar	78
P A Wallace lbw b Wasim Akram	5
S C Williams c Mushtaq b Waqar	8
B C Lara b Waqar	15
C L Hooper c Moin b Azhar	0
S Chanderpaul lbw b Waqar	95
†D Williams c Moin b Shoaib	48
I R Bishop b Shoaib	10
C E L Ambrose not out	10
F A Rose b Azhar	7
*C A Walsh lbw b Azhar	0
Extras (b 1, lb 16, w 3, nb 7)	27
Total	303

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-37, 3-53, 4-58, 5-205, 6-249, 7-264, 8-291, 9-303

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 22-6-40-1; Waqar Younis 27-3-99-3; Shoaib Akhtar 15-2-47-2; Azhar Mahmood 20.5-7-53-4; Mushtaq Ahmed 17-3-47-0

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Saeed Anwar c Williams b Ambrose	16
Aamir Sohail not out	62
Ijaz Ahmed c Wallace b Rose	10
Inzamam-ul-Haq not out	20
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 11)	14
Total (2 wkts)	122

Mohammad Wasim, †Moin Khan, *Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed and Shoaib Akhtar to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-64

BOWLING: Walsh 9-2-33-0; Ambrose 9-1-36-1, Bishop 7-1-26-0; Rose 8-1-16-1, Hooper 2-0-10-0

Umpires: D R Shepherd (England) and Javed Akhtar (Pakistan)

SECOND TEST MATCH (final day of five) Nagpur: India 485 (S C Ganguly 99, R S Dravid 92, N S Sidhu 79, A Kumble 78, M Azharuddin 62; K R Pushpakumara 5-122) v Sri Lanka. No play on last two days, rain. Match drawn

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of four) Brisbane: Tasmania *307 and 179* (R J Tucker 77; J Dawes 4-27, S Muller 4-55). Queensland 237 and 252-4 (M L Hayden 117, S G Law 58 not out). Queensland win by six wickets. Melbourne: Victoria 265 and 393-3 (L Harper 207 not out, G B Gardiner 133 not out). South Australia 452. Match drawn.

SUPERSPORT SERIES: Final day of four: Kimberley: Border *278 and 192* (P C Strydom 68, M Strydom 4-33); Griqualand West 257 and 162 (I Howell 4-35). Border win by 51 runs. Third day of four: Durban: Natal v Eastern Province — no play, rain. Johannesburg: Gauteng 89 and 183 (C Craven 4-24); Free State 205 (S Jacobs 5-55) and 9-0. Second day of four: Centurion: Boland 100 and 84 (P S de Villiers 5-30), Northern Transvaal 213 (S J Elworthy 89; C Langeveldt 4-70). Northern Transvaal win by an innings and 29 runs.

TOUR MATCHES: Final day of four: Perth: South Africans 468 and 167-3 dec (A M Bacher 68 not out, W J Cronje 58 not out); Western Australia 347-8 dec (J L Langer 60 not out, M E Hussey 59, D R Martyn 54, S Katich 54) and 147-2 (Hussey 74, Martyn 51). Match drawn. Third day of four: Cape Town: West Indies A 290 and 174 (B N Schultz 8-38); Western Province 199 (P Kirsten 63; O D Gibson 4-36) and 130-3 (H Pangarker 53)

BASKETBALL

PLYMOUTH: European championship: Semi-final round. Group C: England 70 (Bucknall 23, Amaechi 19, Cheung 9, Huggins 9) Spain 92 (Herreros 21, Angulo 18, Reyes 16)

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Men. Quarter-finals: Plymouth 80 London 89; Solihull 90 Solent 105, Teesside 90 Coventry 110; Westminster 71 Richmond 82. Women: Second round: Birmingham 55 Sheffield 80, Nottingham 51 Thames Valley 65

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Chelmsford 51 Liverpool 58, Manchester 59 Tyne and Wear 67, Spelthorne 55 Plymouth 46

NATIONAL LEAGUE. Men: First division. Cardiff 89 Mid Sussex 86. Second division. Flintshire 72 Liverpool 86. Women. Second division: Richmond 59 Cardiff C 45

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Phoenix 112 Boston 108 (OT), Philadelphia 105 LA Lakers 95, Orlando 94 Milwaukee 90, Cleveland 97 Charlotte 91, Indiana 94 Chicago 83; Detroit 86 New York 78; Dallas 93 Toronto 91. Denver 95 Minnesota 84. Utah 111 Golden State 82. Houston 98 Portland 89; Seattle 113 Sacramento 96. New Jersey 104 Los Angeles Clippers 92. Saturday: New York 102 Phoenix 80; Atlanta 98 Charlotte 80; Chicago 88 Washington 83; Milwaukee 93 Miami 87, Cleveland 103 Boston 97; Minnesota 106 Vancouver 87; San Antonio 96 Dallas 87; Utah 94 Los Angeles Clippers 91. Houston 107 Golden State 100

Eastern Conference
Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	10	5	667	—
New York	10	5	667	—
Orlando	10	5	667	—
New Jersey	9	5	643	½
Boston	7	9	438	3½
Philadelphia	4	8	333	4½
Washington	5	11	313	5½
Central division				
Atlanta	13	2	867	—
Charlotte	9	5	643	3½
Cleveland	9	6	600	4
Milwaukee	9	6	600	4
Chicago	9	7	563	4½
Indiana	7	6	538	5
Detroit	6	10	375	7½
Toronto	1	14	067	12

Western Conference
Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	8	5	615	—
San Antonio	9	6	600	—
Utah	9	6	600	—
Minnesota	7	8	467	2
Vancouver	6	11	353	4
Dallas	4	11	267	5
Denver	1	12	077	7
Pacific division				
LA Lakers	12	2	857	—
Seattle	12	3	800	½
Phoenix	9	3	750	2
Portland	10	5	667	2½
Sacramento	5	10	333	7½
LA Clippers	2	14	125	11
Golden State	1	13	071	11

SKIING

ROVANIEMI, Finland: World Cup Nordic combined event: Final positions (90m ski jump, 7.5km sprint): 1, S Lajunen (Fin); 2, H Manninen (Fin) at 11sec; 3, M Stecher (Austria) 18; 4, J Mantila (Fin) 16; 5, B Engen Vik (Nor) 27; 6, R Ackermann (Ger) 43; 7, T Lodwick (US) 47 2; 8, G Myhre (Nor) 47 3; 9, H Skard (Nor) 47 7; 10, F Gottwald (Austria) 48 1. 15km cross-country: 1, Engen Vik 40min 29 5sec (253 5pts in Saturday's ski jumping); 2, Stecher 41 51 6 (258 5 jump points); 3, Manninen 38:54 6 (227 5); 4, Ackermann 39 11 0 (229 0); 5, Myhre 38:40 4 (217.0); 6, C Eugen (Austria) 39 13 9 (222 5); 7, Lodwick 41 11 0 (238 0); 8, Gottwald 38:44 2 (206 0); 9, Lajunen 41 08.5 (228 5); 10, J Dormol (Ger) 41 07 2 (228 0). Leading World Cup positions (after two events): 1 equal, Stecher and Manninen 235pts; 3, Engen Vik 225; 4, Lajunen 195; 5, Ackermann 170; 6, Myhre 145; 7, Mantila 137; 9, Lodwick 130; 9, Eugen 121; 10, Gottwald 110.

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN, California: Women's World Cup super-giant slalom: 1, K Seizinger (Ger) 1min 13.23sec; 2, I Kostner (It) 1:13.87; 3, H Gutensohn (Ger) 1:13.89; 4, R Goetschl (Austria) 1 14.68; 5, H Gerg (Ger) 1:14.72; 6, W Zelenskaja (Russ) 1:14.73; 7, R Hausl (Ger) 1 14.74; 8, M Ertl (Ger) 1 14.83; 9, S Gladishiva (Russ) 1 14.90; 10, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 1 15.03; 11, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 1 15.04; 12, C Montillet (Fr) 1 15.07; 13, M Suchadolc (Slovenia) 1 15.09; 14, M Dorfmeister (Austria) 1 15.21; 15, H Marken (Nor) 1 15.25. World Cup parallel slalom: 1, Gerg; 2, Ertl; 3, Meissnitzer; 4, Seizinger; 5, U Hrovat (Slovenia); 6, L Piccard (Fr); 7, Y Nowen (Swe); 8, Goetschl; 9, D Compagnoni (It); 10, Kostner; 11, F Masnada (Fr); 12, Zurbriggen; 13, A Wachter (Austria); 14, S Schuster (Austria); 15, K Roten (Switz). Race stages: Third round: Ertl bt Hrovat .41sec; Meissnitzer bt Piccard .412; Gerg bt Nowen .574; Seizinger bt Goetschl .638. Semi-finals: Ertl bt Meissnitzer .312; Gerg bt Seizinger .357. Third-place play-off: Meissnitzer bt Seizinger .104. Championship final: Gerg bt Ertl. Leading World Cup positions (after five events): 1, Ertl 272pts; 2, Compagnoni 243; 3, Nowen 225; 4, Meissnitzer 216; 5, Gerg 193; 6, Piccard 181; 7, Seizinger 143; 8, Roten 115; 9, A Fremmen (Nor) 108; 10, Hrovat 107; 11, Z Steggall (Aus) 100; 12, S Nef (Switz) 97; 13, Kostner 87; 14, Wachter 81; 15, Zurbriggen 73

LILLEHAMMER, Norway: 120m World Cup ski jumping event: 1, D Thoma (Ger) 247.8pts (first jump 125.0m, second jump 125.5m); 2, J Soininen (Fin) 244.9 (130.5, 125.0); 3, N Kasai (Japan) 237.8 (118.5, 122.5); 4, J P Sandaker (Nor) 235.2 (121.5, 120.0); 5, M Harada (Japan) 226.7 (117.0, 119.5); 6, A Widhoelzl (Austria) 225.1 (117.5, 119.5); 7, M Wagner (Ger) 222.1 (107.5, 129.5); 8, J Sakala (Cz) 221.6 (116.5, 119.0); 9, P Peterka (Slo) 218.7 (115.0, 119.0); 10, K Savolainen (Fin) 218.1 (115.0, 117.0)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers 3 East Grinstead 5, Beeston 2 Hounslow 1; Cannock 6 Guildford 2, Doncaster 3 Canterbury 4, Southgate 4 Old Loughtonians 1; Teddington 3 Reading 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	9	6	2	1	34	17	20
Southgate	9	6	1	2	31	19	19
E Grinstead	9	6	1	2	24	16	19
Canterbury	*9*	*5*	*2*	*2*	*34*	*23*	*17*
Reading	9	5	1	3	28	22	16
Loughtonians	9	4	2	3	27	22	14
Teddington	9	4	1	4	27	30	13
Hounslow	9	3	2	4	21	21	11
Barford T	9	2	3	4	18	25	9
Doncaster	9	1	2	6	20	32	5
Beeston	9	1	2	6	10	30	5
Guildford	9	1	1	7	14	31	4

FIRST DIVISION: Brooklands 3 Gloucester City 1; *Chelmsford 5 St Albans 0, Havant* 3 Bournville 3, Hull 1 Oxford Hawks 2; Indian Gymkhana 4 Sheffield 1; Isca 2 Loughborough Students 1; Lewes 3 Hampstead 2, Oxford University 3 Harleston Magpies 0; Stourport 2 Bluebarts 0; Surbiton 8 Firebrands 2; Warrington 2 Bromley 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surbiton	9	8	1	0	37	9	25
Brooklands	9	8	0	1	27	15	24
Havant	9	7	2	0	38	14	23
Chelmsford	9	6	1	2	34	21	19
Indian Gym	9	6	1	2	26	14	19
Bournville	8	4	3	1	24	13	15
Bromley	9	4	3	2	18	18	15
Hull	9	4	2	3	18	15	14
Hampstead	9	4	1	4	18	14	13
Stourport	9	4	1	4	25	22	13
Isca	9	3	2	4	19	28	11
Gloucester C	9	3	1	5	14	18	10
Lewes	9	2	4	3	26	33	10
Oxford H	9	3	0	6	16	28	9
Oxford Univ	9	2	2	5	19	23	8
Harleston	9	2	2	5	13	17	8
Loughborough	9	2	2	5	14	19	8
Bluebarts	9	2	2	5	18	27	8
Firebrands	9	1	5	3	12	24	8
Sheffield	9	2	1	6	16	26	7
St Albans	8	1	1	6	12	27	4
Warrington	*9*	*1*	*1*	*7*	*15*	*34*	*4*

EHA MEN'S CUP: Fifth round: Barford Tigers 2 Reading 1; Beeston 3 Southgate 2; Cannock 4 Old Loughtonians 3, Canterbury 4 Hounslow 2, Chichester 2 Hampstead 1, Ipswich 0 Stourport 3; Old Cranleighans 5 Spalding 4, St Albans 2 Doncaster 3.

ESL SOUTH HOCKEY LEAGUE: Premier league: Beckenham 6 Old Whitgiftians 4; Bournemouth 3 Chichester 4; City of Portsmouth 2 Eastcote 5, Fareham 1 Anchorians 0, Gore Court 1 Herne Bay 2; Ramgarhia 2 Maidenhead 2; Richmond 2 Purley 3; Trojans 2 High Wycombe 3, Tunbridge Wells 4 Wimbledon 4. Winchester 4 Woking 1. Hampshire/Surrey: Andover 3 Blandford 6; Barnes 1 Old Walcountians 2; Camberley 8 Portsmouth *3. Epsom 5 Dulwich 0; London University 1* Basingstoke 3. Old Mid-Whitgiftians 1 Old Cranleighans 6; Old Georgians 4 Goan 0; Spencer 2 Cheam 0. Kent/Sussex: Bexley Invicta 6 Folkestone 6; Blackheath 8 BBHC 1, Brighton 3 Middleton-Bognor 1; Burnt Ash 2 Marden Russets 1; Eastbourne 3 Old Williamsonians 2; Lloyds Bank 7 Horsham 1; Sevenoaks 2 Mid Sussex 1; Tulse Hill 0 Old Holcombeians 1, Worthing 1 Old Bordenians 1. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham 3 Farnham Common 3; Bracknell 0 PHC Chiswick 5, City of Oxford 1 Lions 5; Gerrards Cross 3 Hayes 3, Hendon 2 Phoenix 3. Newbury 2 Sunbury 2; Old Kingstonians 1 Ashford 2; Staines 0 Richings Park 0; West Hampstead 2 Marlow 0; Wokingham 1 Milton Keynes 1

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blossomfield 1, North Notts 3; Coventry and North Warwicks 2 Hampton-in-Arden 2; Edgbaston 2 Harborne 3; Khalsa 4 Northampton Saints 2; *North Stafford 2 Bloxwich 2*: Nottingham 4 Olton and West Warwicks 7.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding 2 Chester 3, Durham University 2 Sheffield Bankers 1, Neston 3 Timperley 1; Norton 0 Harrogate 1. Southport 3 Wigan 3; Swalwell 0 Formby 3

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford 2 Luton Town 2; Cambridge University 3 Ipswich 1, Clacton *1 Colchester 3; Crostyx 1 Cambridge City 3*; Sudbury 1 Peterborough Town 7. Premier division B: Bedford 8 Redbridge and Ilford 0; Dereham 3 Old Southendian 2, St Ives 0 Norwich City 4; West Herts 3 Ipswich and East Suffolk 2.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol University 2 Cheltenham 2; Robinsons 3 Swansea 2; Taunton Vale 0 Bath Buccaneers 5; Whitchurch *5 Clevedon* 1.

EHA WOMEN'S CUP: Fourth round: Bracknell 4 Epsom 3. Bradford Swithenbank 1 Slough 2, Chelmsford Highway 6 Southampton 1, Didsbury Greys 1 Trojans 4, Ealing 0 Leicester 2; Exeter 0 Aldridge 3, Harleston Magpies 3 Doreham 2; Hightown 5 Canterbury 1, Loughborough 4 Crimson Ramblers 0; Olton 9 Taunton Vale 0; Poynton 2 Charnwood 0; Sunbury 1 Welton 5, Sutton Coldfield 6 Swindon 1; Whitley Bay 1 Clifton 6, Woking 3 Wimbledon 2.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton 3 Sutton 1 Doncaster 2 Ipswich 2, Slough 4 Hightown 1, Trojans 1 Olton 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	7	7	0	0	41	12	21
Clifton	7	5	1	1	16	12	16
Ipswich	7	4	1	2	18	12	13
Olton	7	3	2	2	15	17	11
Hightown	*7*	*2*	*1*	*4*	*8*	*16*	*7*
Trojans	7	1	2	4	10	18	5
Sutton	7	1	1	5	11	20	4
Doncaster	7	0	2	5	8	20	2

FIRST DIVISION: Bedans 0 Chelmsford 6, Canterbury 5 Loughborough Students 1; Leicester *3 Bradford 0*; Wimbledon 0 Bracknell 2. Second division: Aldridge 4 Poynton 0; Bluebarts 1 Sherwood 1, Old Loughtonians 2 Woking 1; West Witney 1 Ealing 2

WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Cardiff Ath 4 Newport 1; Colwyn Bay 2 Pontypridd 0; Swansea 8 Penarth 0; Cardiff Institute 1 Newtown 3.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES. East: Ashford 1 Ipswich 2, Bury St Edmunds 6 Welwyn Garden City 1; Harleston 2 Dereham 1; St Albans 3 Sevenoaks 3. *Midlands:* Belper 1 Crimson Ramblers 2, Hampton 5 Pickwick 1; Leicester 1 Kettering 4, North Staffs 0 Luton 0. North: Chester 4 York 1; Leyland M 0 Sheffield 3, Liverpool Sefton 2 Blackburn 3; Welton 0 Wirrington Park 2. South: Dulwich 1 Tulse Hill 4, Hendon 1 Winchester 0; Horsham 1 Hampstead 1; Maidenhead 4 Southampton 2; Winchmore Hill 2 Reading 5. West: Colwall 1 Bournemouth 2, Exeter 1 Leominster 1; Exmouth 2 St Austell 0; Redland 3 Cheltenham 1; Taunton Vale 0 Yate 1

NEW ITF VALUATIONS

These new valuations for Interactive Team Football take effect from today

VALUES UP

Code	Player	New (£m)	Old (£m)
11501	Gilles Rousset	3.5	(1.5)
11901	Kasey Keller	3.0	(2.5)
20502	Jeff Kenna	3.0	(2.5)
21902	Steve Guppy	2.5	(1.5)
22701	Jason Dodd	1.5	(1.0)
31801	David Wetherall	2.5	(2.0)
31804	Lucas Radebe	3.0	(1.5)
31903	Steve Walsh	2.5	(1.5)
41102	Stefano Eranio	3.5	(2.5)
41301	Andy Smith	3.5	(2.0)
41501	*Neil McCann*	*3.5*	*(2.5)*
42105	Andy Cole	7.0	(5.0)
42005	John Barnes	3.0	(2.5)
42706	Carlton Palmer	2.0	(1.5)
51103	Francesco Baiano	4.5	(2.0)
51202	Kjell Olofsson	4.0	(2.5)
51803	Rod Wallace	3.5	(2.5)
52401	Marco Negri	8.5	(6.5)
52901	John Hartson	4.5	(3.5)
60501	Roy Hodgson	3.5	(3.0)
61101	Jim Smith	2.5	(1.0)
61501	Jim Jeffries	3.5	(2.5)
61801	George Graham	3.0	(2.0)

VALUES DOWN

Code	Player	New (£m)	Old (£m)
12301	Shay Given	3.0	(4.0)
12801	Ian Walker	2.5	(3.0)
20301	Steve Staunton	2.5	(3.0)
20302	Alan Wright	2.5	(3.0)
20303	Simon Grayson	2.0	(2.5)
22001	*S I Bjornebye*	3.0	(4.0)
30201	Tony Adams	3.0	(3.5)
30202	Martin Keown	3.0	(3.5)
30301	Gareth Southgate	3.0	(3.5)
30302	Ugo Ehiogu	3.0	(3.5)
31901	Matt Elliott	2.5	(3.0)
32301	Philippe Albert	2.5	(3.0)
32601	Sol Campbell	2.5	(3.0)
40801	Dennis Wise	3.5	(4.0)
42001	S McManaman	6.0	(7.0)
42006	Paul Ince	4.0	(5.0)
42401	Brian Laudrup	6.5	(8.0)
42403	Jonas Thern	3.0	(4.0)
43001	Robbie Earle	4.0	(4.5)
50301	Dwight Yorke	6.0	(7.5)
50302	Stan Collymore	5.0	(7.0)
51401	*Duncan Ferguson*	*4.0*	*(5.0)*
52001	Robbie Fowler	8.0	(8.5)
62001	Roy Evans	3.0	(4.0)
62301	Kenny Dalglish	4.0	(4.5)

SCHOOLS SPORT

Rugby union

DAILY MAIL UNDER-15 CUP. First round: QEGS Wakefield 20 Durham 5; Hirst HS 19 QEHS 5, Rydal Penrhos 39 King's, Pontefract 17; St Peter's and Paul 0 Cowley HS 41. Merchant Taylors' 0 Wirral GS 29; St Benedict's 0 Fairfield HS 22; Prince Henry's GS 10 South Hunsley 5, Yarm 5 RGS *Newcastle 20; Nottingham HS 32 King's*, Grantham 12; Chestyn Hay 17 Mount St Mary's 34; Prince Henry's HS 7 Cath Sch Hereford 7, Lord Wandsworth 12 Chichester HS 3; Cavendish 7 London Oratory 5, Hinchingbrooke 0 Haberdashers' Aske's 17, T Bennet Comm 12 Langley Park 48; Pangbourne 12 St Peter's, Gloucs 20; Poole GS 22 Kingdown 0, Kings of Wessex 24 West Buckland 5, Launceston 10 Truro 30; *Aylesbury GS 5* Wellington Coll 24; Marlborough 55 Priory Comm 0; Exeter 15 Colfox 12; Beechen Cliff 5 Clevedon Comm 14, Wymondham 85 Bassingbourn 24; Ramsey Comm 0 Wallingford 50; *Lutterworth GS 0* Bilton HS 49, Bishop of Hereford 0 King Henry VIII, Coventry 0; L Sherriff 50 Newcastle-under-Lyme 3; St Cuthbert's 68 Ian Ramsey 0; St Peter's, York 43 Bradford GS 0; Hymers 39 King's, *Macclesfield 7*; Cockermouth 8 Ullswater C 13, Whitgift 31 Bishop's Stortford 8. Second round: Whitgift 17 Emanuel 12, Bradford Modern 27 Old Swinford Hospital 19. Third round: Mill Hill 5 Colfe's 22.

DAILY MAIL UNDER-18 CUP: Third round: London and South East: Reigate GS 0 Colfes GS 22; Campion 60 Hinchingbrooke 3; Verulam 24 Coopers' Coborn 7; Hitchin Boys 18 Gatis 6. Midlands: Old Swinford Hosp 27 King Henry VIII, Coventry 17; King Edward's, Birmingham 15 Northants Sch for Boys 13. North: Wath CS 3 QEGS Wakefield 27, Kirkham GS 44 Birkenhead 13. Fourth round: Midlands: Bablake 12 Solihull Sixth Form Coll 22. North: Bradford GS 3 Durham 5, South West: Pangbourne 38 Prior Park 17

MIDDLESEX UNDER-18 CUP: Final: St Paul's 17 London Oratory 14

OTHER MATCHES: Abingdon 49 Shiplake 0; Bedford 8 Haileybury 12; Bedford Modern 3 Bromsgrove 49; Bloxham 5 King Henry VIII, Coventry 5; Blundell's 8 King's, Bruton 3; Bradford GS 17 Arnold 6; Brighton 23 Portsmouth GS 11, Campion 24 Hampton 18; Churcher's 44 Halliford 6; Coopers' Coborn 53 St Joseph's, Ipswich 22; Cranbrook 16 Hurstpierpoint 16; Dean Close 15 King Edward's, Bath 13; Downside 24 Dauntsey's 6; Durham 69 Yarm 0, Eastbourne 74 Worth 3; Eltham 18 Colfe's 15; Epsom 24 Whitgift 13; Harrow 10 Radley 10; Hereford Cath 42 Chepstow 7; Hymers 33 Leeds GS 14; Ipswich 46 Felsted 63; Judd 8 Reigate GS 18 Kelly 28 Plymouth 3; Kent [illegible] Chatham House [illegible] King's, Ely 22 Wisbech GS 14; King's, Macclesfield 28 Birkenhead 6; KCS Wimbledon 13 Wimbledon 48; Latymer Upper 3 Desborough 24; Loretto 14 Sedbergh 22; Mill Hill 7 Berkhamsted 0; Oakham 21 Ratcliffe 3, Perse 26 Woodbridge 10; Queen Elizabeth, Barnet 7 RGS, High Wycombe 52; QEGS, Wakefield 60 Loughborough 0; QEH, Bristol 20 Prior Park 3; RGS, Guildford 7 St Paul's 28; Rugby 5 Oundle 31; St Edward's, Oxford 68 Stowe 7; St Olave's 64 St Dunstan's 3; Seaford 18 Chichester HS 25; Sevenoaks 29 Caterham [illegible] Cheltenham 29; Sir Roger Manwood's 0 Dover 51; Stonyhurst 24 Lancaster RGS 3; Taunton 6 Canford 9; The Leys 15 Gresham's 18; Trinity 0 Dulwich 71, Wallington 7 St George's, Weybridge 50, Warwick 8 Uppingham 7 Wellington Coll 27 Eton 10, Wellington Sch 29 West Buckland 15 Woodhouse Grove 33 St Peter's 3

Football

PREMIER LEAGUE TROPHY: Under-19: Northumberland 9 North Yorkshire 0; Cleveland 1 South Yorkshire 3; Durham 5 Cumbria 1. Under-16: Northumberland 0 North Yorkshire 0; Cleveland 1 South Yorkshire 2, Durham 5 Cumbria 1. Full Firm Trophy: Third round: East Cornwall 5 North Somerset 1. South East Counties: Under-15: Middlesex 3 Inner London 0. Under-14: Middlesex 1 Inner London 3. Under-13: Middlesex 3 Inner London 2. Inter-county (Under-15): Durham 6 Cumbria 0. Lancashire Cup: Blackpool 2 Preston 1. Yorkshire Trophy: Hambleton and Richmond 1 Leeds 6. West Midlands League: Erdington and Sutley 1 Nuneaton 5; Cannock 2 Kings Norton and South Birmingham 2; Wyre Forest 2 Wolverhampton 6. Northern Merit League: Blackburn 2 Huddersfield 2. Goodhand Trophy: Grimsby 3 Hull 2. Mansfield 3 Worksop 4. Inter association: Macclesfield 0 Bury 1, Luton 1 Halesowen and Stourbridge 2

Gymnastics

BLETCHLEY: British rhythmic individual championships: Under-12s: 1, H McKibbin (Spelthorne) 15.834pts; 2, J O'Sullivan (Spelthorne) 15.226; 3, M Denholm (Lingswood) 14.867. Under-10s: 1, H Walker (Coventry) 14.284; 2, E Higgins (Solihull) 13.643; 3, C Boyle (Phoenix, Northern Ireland) 13.801

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Assignment to obtain legal aid valid

Norglen Ltd (in liquidation) v Reeds Rains Prudential Ltd and Others

Circuit Systems Ltd (in liquidation) and Another v Zuken-Redac (UK) Ltd

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 27]

The assignment of a cause of action to an individual by a company in liquidation, which was otherwise valid, was not to be treated as invalid or unenforceable on the ground that the assignment was effected to enable the litigation to be pursued with the benefit of legal aid and to avoid an order for security for costs.

Nor could an application by an individual assignee to be substituted as plaintiffs in the action in place of the company in liquidation properly be refused on the ground that the reason for the assignment was to obtain legal aid.

It was a question of construction of the Legal Aid Act 1988 whether the Legal Aid Board had a discretion to grant legal aid to an individual assignee in such circumstances and it was for the Lord Chancellor in his rule-making capacity and for the discretion of the Legal Aid Board to identify abuses of the legal aid scheme and deal with them.

The House of Lords so held when:

1 Dismissing an appeal by the first to fourth defendants in the *Norglen* action, Reeds Rains Prudential Ltd, Jonathan Sharp, Graham Richardson and Metier Property Holdings Ltd, against the decision of the Court of Appeal (*The Times* December 6, 1995; [1996] 1 WLR 864) that the assignment of a cause of action by the liquidator of the plaintiff company, Norglen Ltd, to its shareholders and former directors, Clive Rodgers and Pauline Rodgers, was valid: that there was no jurisdiction to make an order for security for costs against Mr and Mrs Rodgers on their application to be substituted as plaintiffs in the action; and that it would not in the circumstances be right to make an order against Norglen; and

2 Dismissing an appeal by the defendant company in the *Circuit Systems* action, Zuken-Redac (UK) Ltd, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (*The Times* April 5, 1996; [1997] 1 WLR 721) that a similar assignment by the plaintiff, Circuit Systems Ltd (in liquidation), to a majority shareholder, William James Basten, for £1 was valid.

Mr and Mrs Rodgers and Mr Basten had obtained legal aid to prosecute the assigned causes of action.

Norglen: Mr Rupert Jackson, QC and Mr John Greenbourne for the first and second defendants; Mr Peter W. Smith, QC for the third and fourth defendants; Mr Charles Purle, QC and Mr David Stern for Mr and Mrs Rodgers; Mr David Stern for the liquidator.

Circuit Systems: Mr Roger Henderson, QC and Mr Michael Kent for the defendants; Mr Charles Sparrow, QC and Mr Graham Shipley for the plaintiffs.

LORD HOFFMANN said that the law was traditionally hostile to the assignment of causes of action in return for a share of the proceeds. Such transactions were described as champerty (division of the field) and regarded as illegal and unenforceable.

The position of liquidators and trustees in bankruptcy was, however, quite different. The courts had recognised that they often had no assets with which to fund litigation and that in such a case the only practical way in which they could turn a cause of action into money was to sell it, either for a fixed sum or a share of the proceeds, to someone who was willing to take proceedings in his own name: see *Seear v Lawson* ((1880) 15 Ch D 426, 433); *Ramsey v Hartley* ([1977] 1 WLR 686, 698); and *Guy v Churchill* ((1888) 40 Ch D 481).

In the face of that line of authority, counsel for the defendants accepted that apart from the impact of legal aid and the effect on a defendant's right to security for costs, the assignments could not be challenged.

The chief question in both appeals was therefore whether the assignments were void or unenforceable because they would enable a company to benefit indirectly from legal aid.

That was the view of the Court of Appeal in *Advanced Technology Structures Ltd v Cray Valley Products Ltd* ([1993] BCLC 723). Lord Justice Hirst had said that the assignment was "a mere stratagem or device to enable the company to carry on the proceedings, with the benefit of [the assignee's] legal aid" demonstrating that the assignment was a sham.

If the question was whether a given transaction was such as to attract a statutory benefit, such as a grant or assistance, like legal aid, or a statutory burden, such as income tax, his Lordship did not think that it promoted clarity of thought to use terms like "stratagem" or "device". The question was simply whether upon its true construction, the statute applied to the transaction.

Tax avoidance schemes were perhaps the best example. They either worked, or they did not work. If they did not work, the reason was simply that upon the true construction of the statute, the transaction which was designed to avoid the charge to tax actually came within it.

It was not that the statute had a penumbral spirit which struck down devices or stratagems designed to avoid its terms or exploit its loopholes. There was no need for such spooky jurisprudence.

The way in which the matter came before the House of Lords made it undesirable for it to express any opinion on the way in which the Legal Aid Board should deal with such cases under the existing scheme.

The board had not been a party to the proceedings and the legality of the board's exercise of its public powers and discretions was not an issue in either of the appeals. The House was concerned solely with the validity, as a matter of private law, of the assignments by the two companies to Mr and Mrs Rodgers and Mr Basten, respectively.

The question of how the board should have exercised its discretion in granting them legal aid or whether, as a matter of construction of the 1988 Act, it had such a discretion, was not relevant. For the board either had such a power or it did not.

If Parliament conferred such a power, there was no ground for saying that it must be taken impliedly to have prohibited such assignments or that the Act required that to be done as a matter of public policy.

The Act recognised in general terms the possibility of abuse but left it to the rule-making power of the Lord Chancellor and the discretion of the board to identify such abuses and deal with them.

Advanced Technology Structures Ltd v Cray Valley Products Ltd was wrong to hold that the assignment was invalid.

Nor was there anything in the point that the assignment was invalid because it deprived the defendants of the right to apply for security for costs under section 726 of the Companies Act 1985.

For better or worse, the law entitled a defendant to be protected against incurring irrecoverable costs in litigation brought against him by an impecunious company but not by an impecunious individual. But that could not prevent companies from assigning property to individuals.

It followed that the *Circuit Systems* appeal would be dismissed.

Mr Smith advanced an alternative argument for the third and fourth defendants in the *Norglen* appeal based on what he said was misconduct on the part of the liquidator in assigning the company's cause of action. Those allegations had no present relevance.

The liquidator had a statutory power to assign the company's cause of action and had exercised that power. If his exercise of the power was a breach of duty to the company and its creditors, that was a matter of which the creditors might complain in the Companies Court. It did not affect the validity of the assignment.

In the *Norglen* appeal, Mr Jackson accepted that if the assignment was effective to transfer the cause of action from the company to Mr and Mrs Rodgers, their joinder as parties was necessary and he submitted that in the exercise of the court's discretion under Order 15, rule 7(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, joinder should have been refused on the ground that the prosecution of the action by the Rodgers would be an abuse of legal aid; alternatively, that joinder should have been subject to a condition that Norglen provide security for costs.

Once it was accepted that, in spite of the finding that the assignment was a stratagem or device to obtain legal aid, it was nevertheless valid, there were no grounds upon which joinder could properly be refused.

If the question whether the assignment was an abuse of legal aid was a matter for the discretion of the Legal Aid Board, it followed that it should not be a ground for the court refusing to join a plaintiff who had a good title to sue.

Mr Jackson's alternative argument was that before ordering substitution the Court of Appeal should have re-imposed the condition imposed by Mr Justice Morritt that Norglen give security for costs and left it to take effect against Mr and Mrs Rodgers by virtue of Order 15, rule 8(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, Mr Purle said that the rule could not have the effect of making an order for security, based upon an assessment of the means of a corporate plaintiff, effective against a new individual plaintiff.

It was unnecessary to decide that question because if it would not be right to make an order for security as a condition of substitution, it would not be right to achieve the same effect in the highly artificial manner suggested by Mr Jackson.

The Court of Appeal assumed that there was a power to impose such a condition but decided as a matter of discretion not to exercise it.

The reasoning of Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, in *Eurocross Sales Ltd v Cornhill Insurance plc* ([1995] 1 WLR 1517, 1524F), concerning an application to be joined as an additional plaintiff under the county court equivalent of Order 15, rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court seemed to his Lordship to apply equally to a condition imposed on an application for substitution under Order 15, rule 7 and suggested that it would be wrong to impose the condition sought by the defendants.

It was not, however, necessary to express a final view on whether that reasoning was correct because, in refusing to order security, the Court of Appeal in *Norglen* did not rely upon it. The court exercised its discretion on the ground that Norglen had sufficient assets to be able to meet all the costs for which it could be made liable.

His Lordship would therefore dismiss the *Norglen* appeal.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: James Chapman & Co, Manchester; Jones Maidment Wilson, Manchester; Betesh Fox & Co, Manchester.

Mr David Whittaker, Fleet; Humphreys & Co, Bristol.

Letter was no requirement to leave the country

Remelien v Secretary of State for Social Security and Another

Regina v Same, Ex parte Wolke

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Hutton

[Speeches November 27]

A letter from the Home Office to a European national saying that she must make arrangements to leave the country as she had become a charge on public funds did not constitute a requirement to leave so as to end her entitlement to income support.

The ending of substantive entitlement to income support under paragraph 21(3)(h) of the Income Support (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967), as amended by regulation 4 of the Income-Related Benefits Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations (SI 1993 No 315) could be triggered only by a deportation order or an order for removal under article 15(2) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Order (SI 1994 No 1895).

The House of Lords so held by a majority, Lord Slynn dissenting, allowing appeals by Nathalie Remelien and Mery Wolke against a decision of the Court of Appeal (*The Times* July 12, 1996) to allow appeals, heard together, by the Secretary of State for Social Security and the Chief Adjudication Officer from Mr Justice Popplewell and Mr Commissioner Mesher respectively.

Mr John Howell, QC and Mr Stewart Wright for Ms Wolke; Mr *Ramby de Mello and Mr Leon* Daniel for Ms Remelien; Mr Richard Plender, QC and Miss Geraldine Clark for the secretary of state.

LORD HOFFMANN said the appellants were single mothers, nationals of European Union states, who had come to England with men from whom they had since separated. The question in the appeals was whether they were entitled to income support.

In principle they were entitled by virtue of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1982 and the 1987 Regulations but paragraph 17 of Schedule 17 to the regulations said that the amount of the entitlement of a person from abroad should be nil.

By regulation 21(3)(h) the definition of "person from abroad" included a person who "is a national of a member state and is required by the secretary of state to leave the United Kingdom". The short question was whether the secretary of state had required Ms Wolke and Ms Remelien to leave the United Kingdom.

Each had received a letter stating that in view of the fact that she was in the United Kingdom in a non-economic capacity and that she had become a burden on public funds, the secretary of state was not satisfied that she was lawfully resident under EC law and she should now make arrangements to leave the United Kingdom.

A social security adjudication officer in each case decided that the letters amounted to a requirement from the Home Secretary that the *appellants* leave the United Kingdom and brought them within the definition of persons from abroad.

Ms Wolke had sought judicial review of the officer's decision in her case, which had been quashed by Mr Justice Popplewell. The officer's decision in Ms Remelien's case had been upheld by the Social Security Appeal Tribunal, but quashed on appeal to the Commissioner, Mr Mesher, because the letter lacked "the necessary degree of insistence or compulsion".

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Kennedy had decided that both women came within the definition of a person from abroad and Sir Stephen Brown, President, had agreed. Lord Justice Phillips had dissented.

Paragraph (h) had been added following the decision of the European Court of Justice in *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Antonissen* (*The Times* February 27, 1991; [1991] ECR I-745).

The key concept in UK immigration control was that of having leave to enter. In most other European countries the right to enter was a consequence of the entrant's having the right to be there.

On accession to the European Community the Home Office had tried to reconcile the UK system with the European by granting nationals of other member states leave to enter for an initial six-month period without restriction as to employment or occupation.

That had been held unlawful by the European Court in *R v Pieck* ([1981] QB 571) and the Home Office had subsequently admitted nationals of other member states without leave.

But Community law gave such nationals rights to reside here only for defined and limited purposes. What could be done about those who entered without leave but ceased to be qualified persons because they were not duly exercising those rights?

The Home Secretary had introduced *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules* (HC 169) on February 9, 1983 which envisaged the issue of residence permits to Community nationals entering into employment or establishing themselves in business.

Paragraph 143 of the *Statement* provided that a person might be required to leave the UK, subject to appeal if he fell a charge on public funds before acquiring a work permit or if after six months he failed to enter employment or become established in business.

Paragraph (h) should be interpreted against the background of the decision of the European Court in *Ex parte Antonissen* that a member state could, subject to appeal, lawfully require a national of another member state to leave its territory if he had not found employment there after six months.

It was agreed, however, that the letters sent to the appellants had no effect upon their immigration status and did not give rise to any right of appeal to an immigration adjudicator. If the respondents' construction of paragraph (h) was correct, it was a strange consequence of a regulation which was said to give effect to the decision in *Ex parte Antonissen* that it should give the appellants no effective right of appeal.

Mr Plender had argued that as a matter of Community law, there was no need for entitlement to income support to be linked to being under a legal obligation to leave. The secretary of state could simply have excluded non-economic categories of persons resident under Community rights from any claim to income support.

The United Kingdom was required by treaty to provide equal treatment in social security matters to nationals of certain European countries lawfully present on its territory. In paragraph (h) the secretary of state had simply tried to limit the entitlement to benefits to persons lawfully present in the UK.

There were three difficulties with that argument: (i) paragraph (h) did not refer to a statement by the Home Secretary that a Community national was not lawfully present, but said that he must have been required to leave; (ii) *Ex parte Antonissen*, from which the language was derived, did not enter into the question whether a person was lawfully present in the UK; (iii) the appellants were lawfully present in the UK until they had actually been required to leave.

Mr Plender had also argued that if paragraph (h) meant that there must have been a legal obligation to leave, it added nothing to paragraph (c) which was already in the definition before 1993 and concerned a person who was the subject of a deportation order, the only way in 1993 in which someone could have been placed under a legal obligation to leave.

Although that argument had impressed the Court of Appeal his Lordship rejected it. First, because one could not exclude the possibility that the secretary of state, or his advisers, were simply muddled about what *Ex parte Antonissen* had decided and second, because it must have been clear after *Ex parte Antonissen* that there would have to be legislation to create in domestic law a power of removal in the terms which that case had assumed to exist. Such a power had eventually been enacted in paragraph 15(2) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Order 1994.

The Home Secretary's letters were not a requirement to leave. Such a requirement would involve the making, after any appeals had run their course, of a deportation order or an order for removal under article 15(2) of the 1994 Order. The appeals would be allowed.

Lord Slynn delivered a dissenting judgment but Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Hope and Lord Hutton agreed with Lord Hoffmann.

Solicitors: Mr David Thomas, Aldgate; Powell & Co, Woolwich; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Fears of residents relevant for planning decision

West Midlands Probation Committee v Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mantell

[Judgment November 7]

The fears of residents in a suburban street about the impact of a proposed bail hostel extension were capable of being a relevant planning consideration.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the West Midlands Probation Committee from Mr Robin Purchas, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge (*The Times* October 18, 1996) who had dismissed an application to quash the dismissal by the secretary of state of an appeal by the probation committee from a refusal by Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council to grant planning permission for extension of a bail and probation hostel at Stormal Road, Aldridge, West Midlands.

Mr Robert Griffiths, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the probation committee; Mr Michael Bedford for the secretary of state; Mr Ian Porter for the council.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said the bail hostel provided accommodation for twelve bailees, and the proposed extension would accommodate another eight.

The council had refused planning permission because the existing use of the premises was incompatible with the surrounding area and the incompatibility would be exacerbated by the extension.

An inspector found that the hostel had attracted numerous police visits, many late at night or early in the morning, some involving arrests, personal injuries or the breach of bail conditions. Bailees had been fighting in the street, moaning and mutilating themselves, smashing crockery in private driveways and milk bottles in the road. The inspector found there were reasonable grounds for the residents' apprehension.

Mr Griffiths had maintained that apprehension and fear were not material planning considerations since they did not relate to the character of the use of the land. Mr Bedford argued that public concern about the effect of a proposed development was a material planning consideration.

His Lordship did not consider that the incidents and occurrences which the inspector had found to have occurred could be divorced from the concerns and fears of residents, which arose from the disturbances.

The authorities showed that the impact of a proposed development upon the use of an activities on neighbouring land might be a material consideration; that in considering the impact, regard might be had to the use to which the neighbouring land was put; and that justified public concern in the locality about emanations from land as a result of its proposed development might be a material consideration.

Fear and concern felt by occupants of neighbouring land was as real in the instant case as in one involving polluting discharges and as relevant to their reasonable use of the land.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Wragge & Co, Birmingham; Treasury Solicitor; Mrs Sheila Harriman, Walsall.

Aggravating feature of supplying drugs

Regina v Ball

Regina v Bateman

The supply of drugs to addicts who were trying to break the habit was rightly considered an aggravating feature of the offence for sentencing purposes.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Henry, Mr Justice Gage and Judge Tucker, QC) so held on October 23 in dismissing appeals by Lisa Jane Ball and Darren Bateman against 5½-year prison sentences imposed in April 1997 at Kingston upon Thames Crown Court by Judge Macrae for offences of supplying heroin and possessing heroin with intent to supply.

JUDGE TUCKER, giving the judgment of the court, said that police had targeted the vicinity of a drug rehabilitation centre for an undercover operation. Both the appellants sold small quantities of heroin to undercover police officers which made their pleas of guilty nearly inevitable.

It was clear the judge thought that an exemplary deterrent sentence was called for and the deliberate targeting of the vulnerable required not only the contempt of the court but also an expression, in practical terms, of the need to deter others to mark the additional gravity.

It seemed to their Lordships that the judge had used seven years as his starting point because of the aggravating feature and had then given a discount, because of the near inevitability of the plea, of one and a half years. That was entirely right.

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CHANGING TIMES

Scots Law Report December 1 1997 Outer House

Architects owe no duty to tenants of client

Strathford East Kilbride Ltd v Film Design Ltd

Before Lord MacLean

[Judgment July 24]

In the absence of any averments by tenants that architects under a *building contract with the landlord* had assumed responsibility towards them, the architects owed the tenants no duty to avoid causing them financial loss as a result of the services which they were obliged to provide under the contract with the landlord.

Lord MacLean, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held dismissing an action of damages at the instance of Strathford East Kilbride Ltd against Film Design Ltd and the third party, Rennick Partnership.

Miss Deirdre MacNeill, QC and Mr Alan Hamilton for the pursuers; Mr Nigel Emslie, QC and Mr John Wright, QC, for the defenders; Miss Isabella Ennis for the third party.

LORD MACLEAN said that the pursuers' parent company had contracted with the defenders for the provision of architectural and related services for the design and supervision of a new garage. The third party had been engaged with their approval as consulting engineer under a sub-contract with the defenders.

The garage was built on land acquired by the parent company but operated by a separate company, in the event the prusuers. The Pursuers averred that the contract documents made it clear that the parent company would not be the only company with an interest in the construction of the garage, its purpose being for the new dealership to be operated from the completed buildings. It followed that the pursuers were entitled to sue on the contract. The pursuers had subsequently agreed to lease the garage from their parent company.

Soon after trading had commenced, certain significant structural and other defects had appeared. The pursuers sought damages because during remedial works they had incurred substantial re-location costs and their business had been restricted and disrupted in consequence of which they had suffered diminution in profit and incurred additional interest charges.

They sought to recover on the grounds, inter alia, of breach of a duty of care and skill on the basis that either the pursuers were persons for whom the garage was being constructed, or they had a direct interest in the property as operators or as tenants or as one of the parties for whose benefit the contract was arranged and executed.

There was no averment that the defenders had known that the pursuers would be the operators of the garage. The pursuers made no averments that the defenders had assumed responsibility to them or that they themselves had relied upon the defenders' expertise as architects.

The defenders submitted that no duty in delict was owed to the pursuers by the defenders in the course of their providing services to the parent company not to cause economic loss consequent upon the defects averred.

In relation to the construction of buildings, there was no duty in delict not to cause economic loss to a remote or derivative owner or purchaser or tenant or subsequent occupier of a building in the absence of injury to persons or damage to other property.

The relationship of the parties was insufficiently proximate. Nor, they submitted, was there any liability on the special assumption of responsibility in accordance with *Hedley Byrne & Co Ltd v Heller and Partners Ltd* ([1964] AC 465).

The pursuers maintained that the applicable principles were to be found in *Junior Books Ltd v Veitchi Co Ltd* (1982 SC (HL) 244). With limited exceptions, those principles had been applied in Scotland even after *D & F Estates v Church Commissioners* ([1989] 1 AC 177) and *Murphy v Brentwood District Council* ([1991] AC 398).

There was no place in Scots law for the sharp compartmentalisation of damage between economic and physical loss. The principles enunciated in English cases should not be adopted without question in Scotland. As an authority, *Junior Books* had not been departed from.

His Lordship did not find that well founded. In the years following *Junior Books* the Scots courts had regarded decisions of the House of Lords in that field as authoritative and persuasive because they had considered that the laws of the two jurisdictions were the same in that field.

In no Scottish case had it been suggested that *D & F Estates* and *Murphy* did not apply. On the contrary, it had been held in a whole series of cases that those authorities represented Scots law.

Scots law had not developed *differently from English law in* that field, and for that reason his Lordship saw no basis for applying Commonwealth authorities such as *Bryan v Maloney* ((1995) 128 ALR 163); *South Pacific Mfg Co v NZ Security & Consultations & Investigations* ([1992] 2 NZLR 282) and *CNR v Norsk Pacific SS Co* ([1991] DLR 289).

The pursuers in this case had never been in the contractual chain. They were strangers to the contract and were in a similar position legally to a derivative acquirer, successor or possessor.

On the principles enunciated in *D & F Estates* those in the position of the pursuers had no claim for the recovery of pure economic loss as a result of some deficiency in the quality of what they had come to acquire, succeed to or possess.

It remained to consider whether the pursuers could rely on the *Hedley Byrne* principle as developed in later cases. There the critical question was not the nature of the damage itself but whether the scope of the duty of care was such as to embrace damage of the kind for which the pursuers claimed: see *Murphy* (at p485).

The defenders were not in the position of sub-contractors in the contractual chain but the providers of services to the building owners. Was that relationship sufficiently special to justify the existence and recognition of a duty of care?

On consideration of the authorities, his Lordship concluded that, in the absence of any averments by the pursuers that the defenders had assumed responsibility towards them, the defenders owed them as tenants no duty in the particular circumstances to avoid causing them financial loss in the services which they were obliged to provide under a contract with the pursuers' landlords. His Lordship also saw no distinction between the pursuers as tenants and any other singular successor.

Law agents: MacRoberts; Simpson & Marwick, WS; McClure Naismith.

هكذا من الأصل

How has the death of their famous fundraiser affected Britain's charities? **Rodney Hobson** reports

Doubts over Diana effect

Unemployment is falling, wages are rising, building society windfalls have been paid out and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has stirred the public conscience towards the less fortunate.

This should be a golden scenario for charities as they approach the crucial Christmas giving season. Yet the Princess's death may have polarised the charity sector even further, because her memorial fund has joined the National Lottery as a source of charity finance competing with the Christmas catalogue and the street-corner tin can. It is clear that people have become much more choosy about to whom or what they give.

How much the Diana effect has encouraged donations to individual charities will not be easy to judge. One charity that could have hoped to benefit was Shelter, given the Princess's concerns for the homeless. Yet Shelter says: "We have received a handful of donations totalling £5,000 that we can put down specifically to Princess Diana's death. Other people have probably given direct to the memorial fund."

Even that fund has failed to meet initial expectations. Talk that £150 million had poured in during the first few days has given way to the reality that the figure was probably between £11 million and £12 million, although that is still a sizeable sum and it will be augmented by proceeds from the *Candle in the Wind* recording by Elton John and from other efforts.

As one charity worker remarked: "It looks as though someone got the decimal point in the wrong place."

Public donations may have been affected by the fact that, in the outpouring of emotions that followed the Princess's death, it was not clear precisely on what the money would be spent.

Charity-givers, perhaps daunted by the competing demands of a myriad good causes, and mindful of the street beggars and door-to-door duster-sellers who make a good living off the consciences of the unwary, have become more choosy about parting with their money. They want to know who will benefit.

> 'I think people are giving more because of the end of recession'

Andrew Orme, the chairman of Direct Marketing, which specialises in fundraising through direct mail, says: "There is more competition between charities and the ones that are succeeding are those that are getting cleverer at understanding who their supporters are and what they want from the charity. A lot of smaller charities are not doing so well because they lack this expertise. You have to tap into whatever support people are prepared to give. Some want to give cash, some want to find out more about what you do, others want to buy cards and other items. You cannot just say this is us, take it or leave it."

He speaks from experience. His organisation acts for eight charities, including the Samaritans and the British Heart Foundation.

Whether the Diana effect is filtering through to charities will take time to emerge. Susan Osborne, director of corporate communications at the Cancer Research Campaign, explains: "Because we are an enormous charity, the fourth biggest in the country, we are like a giant tanker and it takes time for changes to take effect. We have 1,000 local committees who send money in at the end of the year. However, the word from the street is that there has not been an immediate upturn."

Claire Mallinson, the head of fundraising at Scope, agrees that it is a little early to judge the effect of Diana's death, but she points to the hopeful sign that many people who do not normally make donations apparently did so to the memorial fund. She says: "There were a lot of low-value donations from a wide range of people across the country. We hope that they will take the opportunity to support charities in future."

The hope must be that consciences will be touched at the festive season. As Mr Orme says: "People who make one donation a year tend to do it at Christmas."

Ms Mallinson agrees. "Christmas is the time when our regular supporters and our occasional supporters make donations to Scope," she says. "We are hoping that about £1 million will be donated by individual givers. That will be 25 and 30 per cent of personal donations and I think that is probably typical for charities."

Scope changed its name from the Spastics Society three years ago and she admits that is taking time for the new name to become widely known. But she believes that Scope has benefited from the upturn in the economic cycle. She says: "Certainly, in the past three years we have seen an increase in our income."

Ms Osborne adds: "I think that people are now giving more because of the end of the recession. What big charities have to do is to watch the trends so they can target their efforts."

The Princess of Wales arriving at the London Hilton for a charity lunch. Her death stirred the public conscience

Watch out, crooks about

ONE PROBLEM faced by genuine charities at Christmas is the rogue collector who pockets the proceeds. Surprisingly, the law does not prevent any competent crook from registering or acquiring registered charities, *Peter Brown writes*.

Once over that hurdle, he or she can go to a jobcentre and hire temporary staff to collect outside supermarkets. As long as they are on private property they do not need a licence. So the onus is on the shop manager to check: but how?

Three years ago Charity Check, a private company, was set up to keep a database of references from good sources. Since then Philip Cowen, its director, claims to have prevented many dubious collections from taking place. "Charity crooks can be very plausible, using grand-sounding names," he says.

Stuart Crookshank, the Charity Commission's regional operations manager (London), says the law is being revised and that monitoring procedures have been tightened. He also points out that if collectors avoid the word "charity" they do not need to be registered at all.

But he agrees that supermarket managers should be careful. "The fundraising law is not robust. Managers should always ask exactly where the money is going. Genuine charities will very quickly give the answers."

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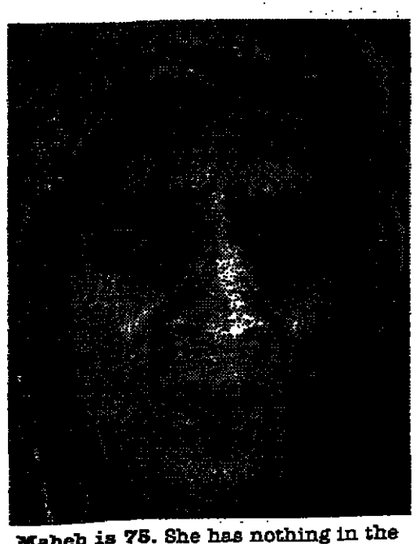

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Bulgaria in Crisis
BBC launches Appeal
LEFT TO FREEZE
Yordan, 1½, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.
No Money To Feed The Children
No Money To Heat The Orphanages
Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.
There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.
The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need.
Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.
● £28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.
Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW
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Please send initial gift pack to: The foster parent ☐ The person making payment ☐
I would like a: Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large ☐ T-shirt
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Edward Fennell explains the idea that improves performance and service to the public

Getting better all the time

The 365 organisations that receive their Charter Mark awards today are the advance guard in what is likely to become a revamped approach to "quality services" for the people.

Stretching from Benefit Agency offices through to the Victoria and Albert Museum, and taking in hospitals, prisons, local government and many other organisations on the way, the Charter Mark winners are receiving what Peter Kilfoyle, Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, describes as a "badge of merit" for their work.

Although the Citizen's Charter and the Charter Mark principles that stemmed from it were once strongly identified with John Major, Labour has taken them to its heart. More than that, Cabinet Office ministers now proclaim the Charter initiative as theirs. According to the member for Liverpool Walton, the intellectual property rights to the Citizen's Charter really belong to Herbert Morrison, grandfather of Peter Mandelson, another Cabinet Office minister. Mr Kilfoyle says the expression "Citizen's Charter" was first used in a pamphlet by Herbert Morrison in the 1930s.

The first practical application is claimed by the Labour administration in York in the 1980s. Mr Kilfoyle comments: "There may have been civil servants in the Cabinet Office who were worried about whether we would continue to support Charter Mark, but it was never under threat. It was self-evidently worthwhile. After all, why should the devil have all the best tunes?"

In fact, it was clear from Labour's general election manifesto that the Charter Mark had won cross-party support. As a means of recognising good performance and a tool for spreading best practice, the initiative is having an impact. To the 365 organisations that receive it today must be added all those other hundreds of organisations that have won it during the past five years and who, as they come up for reassessment, make up an ever-increasing roll-call of organisations that have met the rigorous standards demanded by the Charter Mark assessors (for example, 40 per cent of UK police forces and 31 per cent of local authorities have now won Charter Marks).

Subsequent tests have shown that Charter Mark organisations do deliver a better service. They perform better than average against service standards, provide more choice to their users and consult more over a larger range of subjects. For example, housing departments with Charter Marks get a satisfaction rating of 81 per cent in relation to how they handle repairs, whereas the average figure is 54 per cent. Charter Mark refuse collectors, meanwhile, are four times less likely than the average to miss a collection.

Kilfoyle: Mr Charter Mark

According to Mr Kilfoyle, the Charter Mark criteria that cover ten areas of activity (from performance standards to planned improvement) now represent a benchmark of excellence to which all public services should aspire. There is no compulsion on public sector organisations to apply for Charter Mark, nor to undergo the assessment process which then follows, but Mr Kilfoyle looks forward to the day when everyone is delivering at the level demanded by Charter Mark. As he points out, many more organisations each year request information about the programme than submit entries and the hope is that the philosophy at the heart of Charter Mark is gradually percolating through the myriad organisations — the NHS, the local authorities, executive agencies and public utilities — that the scheme covers.

"It's really about a change in culture," said Mr Kilfoyle. "We want to put pride back into the public services." The view which seemed to come from the Conservatives, according to Mr Kilfoyle, was that the public sector was second-rate when compared to the private sector. This will now change. Instead, public servants are to be accorded more respect and the Charter Mark will increasingly serve as an acknowledgement of their achievements.

Changes in the Charter Mark programme are, however, likely. A wide-scale review is currently taking place and a variety of new approaches are being considered for the future. One of them, almost certainly, is that the Charter Mark principles should be regarded as a framework for self-assessment, against which public services should measure themselves on a regular basis.

"The Charter Mark itself is 'the icing on the cake' — public recognition of excellence," he says. "More important is that services should be delivered with the Charter Mark spirit."

One way of expressing that is through the notion of "the extra mile". Mr Kilfoyle and the civil servants who work in the Charter Unit would like to see a change in attitude so that civil servants, nurses and teachers, rather than delivering the minimum service, are prepared to make the extra effort in order to ensure that individual members of the public receive a first-class service.

Ideally, that would be achieved by "bottom-up" attitudes. If there is any complaint about Charter Mark at present, it is on the ground that it is too "top-down"; managements impose change on their staff. The new approach will encourage front-line staff to make the running in setting high standards for their own work and transmitting that to others. But that also implies, says Mr Kilfoyle, that more effort should be made to listen to those frontline staff.

A strict eye on standards

Edward Fennell explains how the system works and benefits those it assesses

Assessors for Charter Mark are so thorough they could easily be mistaken for management consultants aiming to get to the bottom of how an organisation works.

This year the assessors, who normally go out in groups of two or more, visited all 947 applicants for Charter Marks. It is an enormous commitment by the Charter Unit. Unlike other "standards" no charge is made for the visits, yet the quality of expertise involved is high. Like Fred Weston, an assessor who was formerly Assistant Principal at Dudley College of Technology, almost all the assessors are highly experienced public servants, often recently retired and with distinguished records. The remainder are senior managers seconded from well-regarded private-sector organisations who bring an additional dimension to the assessment process. Although the national judges make the final decision on the award of Marks, the assessors' visits are considered helpful external scrutiny organisations.

That was why Peter Kilfoyle, who is responsibile for the Charter Unit, went on an assessment himself soon after being appointed to his ministerial role. The visit helped to convince him of the Charter Mark's worth. By chance, it involved a service he knew about and the depth of the inquiry reassured him that award of a Charter Mark was no mere Whitehall gong but a real endorsement of quality.

As Mr Weston comments: "A single question to a member of staff or a manager such as: 'Who do you regard as your customers?' can be revealing about an organisation and how it operates." Public-sector organisations now vary in quality. There are still many that continue with their traditional assumptions or gut instincts about who they are serving and their purpose within the community unchallenged. The Charter Mark criteria require that organisations go back to examine these issues in depth to ensure they are properly targeted.

Some of the areas assessors look at include:

Performance standards

● Organisations should set, monitor and publish explicit standards for the services that individual users can reasonable expect. They should also publish performance against those standards.

Information and openness

● Full accurate information should be readily available in plain language about how public services are run, what they cost, how well they perform and who is in charge.

Consultation and choice

● Organisations should provide choice wherever practicable. There should be regular consultation with users whose views and priorities should be taken into account.

Value for money

● The services should be able delivered efficiently within available resources.

User satisfaction

● Applicants need to be able to show that users are satisfied with the service.

Improvements in service quality:

● There should be measurable or demonstrable improvements in the quality of service during the previous two to three years.

Planned improvements and innovations

● There should be commitment to continuous improvement.

Performance since prior achievement of Charter Mark

● Organisations being reassessed, having already won a Charter Mark three years ago, must show they have improved their performance.

All applicants for Charter Marks submit paper applications but this can tell only half the story. Mr Weston comments: "Sometimes when you challenge managers with the contrast between what they claim and what you have seen or heard for yourself you see a look of alarm in their eyes. It is vital to get in there with the users of the service to find out what they think — that is the true test of the quality being delivered."

Quality of the wilds tapped

AVIEMORE VILLAGE and ski resort in the Scottish Highlands is being redeveloped, with plans to include a funicular railway on nearby Cairngorm, thanks to the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Network, a Charter Mark winner today.

ISDN reached the Scottish wilds earlier than expected because the organisation financially assisted the venture.

Funded by the Scottish Office, and based in Inverness, runs schemes with ten local enterprises from Shetland in the north to the Mull of Kintyre in the south, Moray in the east to the Western Isles.

With fewer than ten inhabitants per square kilometre, the area is one of the most sparsely populated in Europe. But the Enterprise Network is aiming to unlock its economic potential, according to Archie MacCallum, its spokesman.

"We are an economic development agency trying to tap in to the potential of undeveloped areas," he says. "One of our main aims is to help growing businesses with grants or loans, marketing and IT advice, and the like.

"We provide premises in some cases, and training for those running the business and their staff. We also operate training programmes for the unemployed."

Since winning its first Charter Mark in 1994, the Network has focused on four sectors which will encourage economic growth in the area: food and drink; manufacturing and production; tourism; knowledge and information technology.

AMANDA LOOSE

Shoppers can sign up for classes between stores. Report by **Amanda Loose**

Big idea on mall scale

Visitors to the Gateshead Metro Centre, Europe's largest indoor mall, can shop for careers and even degrees, thanks to two major innovations by the University of Sunderland.

As part of its scheme to encourage greater participation in further education, the university opened Learning World — a centre offering open access courses from adult education programmes to MBAs and postgraduate study — opposite the shopping centre two years ago, in partnership with Gateshead College.

Those seeking advice on careers, further education and guidance on setting up their own business, can visit the university's high street agency, Pathways, run in partnership with the City College, the Training and Enterprise Council and the Careers and Employment Services.

Linda Bird of Sunderland University says: "We emphasise partnerships with other local colleges and organisations as part of our efforts to provide education for the community."

Working with the community and improving access to information and education is one of the main aims of the University of Wolverhampton, the other university winner, just awarded its second Charter Mark.

The university's science park provides an entire building for business starting up on short tenancies, so that they can have access to services from the university.

Students also benefit. Two multimillion-pound learning centres have recently opened on two of the university's five campuses, which, says John White, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, expands the concept of the library.

"The centres develop self-learning skills," he says. "Students now have access to more information from many sources. The top floor of the centres are devoted to open access computers, and include videos which can be used by language students to record programmes from satellite television."

Since winning its first Charter Mark, the university has introduced a student charter, which outlines what students can expect from the university, as well as what is expected from them.

GINA GLOVER

City Lit, London's biggest adult education college, has further expanded its scope

Wolverhampton has also developed one-stop shops for student registry and administration services. Mr White says: "Being spread over five campuses, students used to have to go to different departments to sort out loans, grants and courses. Now all these services are under one roof."

Simplifying the registration process and improving access to education is among the aims of City Lit, with 22,000 students, London's largest adult education college, offering programmes for adults with learning difficulties.

Enrolment used to be hectic for the college, and time-consuming for would-be students. But a longer enrolment period has been introduced, and applications can be taken over the telephone, by post or fax. Students without qualifications can gain access to university courses after the college's year-long returning to learning scheme.

Since applying for a Charter Mark, the college has consulted with students, 39 per cent of whom are on benefits, to discover what they think should be changed, or improved. Now more information is now on offer, including a telephone information line and guidance service. Many students wanted more access to computers, so a centre has been opened.

Margaret Davey, Principal of City Lit, says: "We are also focusing on programmes for those with learning difficulties, as well as for the homeless and unemployed. We have developed a large Centre for Deaf People, which is expanding all the time. And City Lit offers job-specific courses for the unemployed, such as IT qualifications."

Another ScottishPower company stands up to close inspection.

Southern Water, part of the ScottishPower Group, is the only water company to win the Charter Mark this year.

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- Investor in People
- First prize in the Heist Marketing Awards for Best Postgraduate Prospectus
- Crystal Mark from the Plain English Campaign for the Student Charter Handbook
- "Getting the Message Across" Prize for Disabled Student Resource Guide
- Library Association/Tom Farries Award for Public Relations
- St Peter's Campus - Winner of the Royal Fine Art Commission - Sunday Times "Best New University Building"

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- Hackney Passenger and Transport Services
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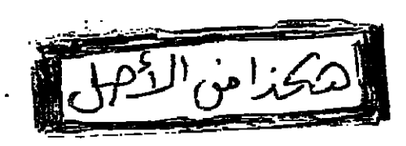
Transforming Hackney is the most radical improvement programme in local government. It is already making a difference and we promise that our services will be significantly better in 1998.

Transforming Hackney
Making a real difference

Hackney



How to hold on to your award

It is all about keeping standards, says Edward Fennell

For those who have won a Charter Mark, the challenge now becomes how to keep it. The awards are granted for three years but the winners have no proprietary rights. Of the organisations which won in 1994, nine reapplied unsuccessfully (including the Imperial War Museum).

Rather like a licence, winners can only hold on to their Charter Marks provided that they continue to adhere to its criteria. Nothing would damage the status of the Charter Mark more than having failing organisations continuing to vaunt their awards as a stamp of quality.

The most notable example was the British Gas affair a couple of years ago. At a time when public complaints were at their loudest, Charter Mark officials looked at the evidence and decided it was necessary to put the organisation on probation. A time limit was set by which improvement had to be achieved. Just before the probationary period elapsed British Gas surrendered its award and resigned. A voluntary withdrawal was seen to be more dignified than a formal expulsion.

There have been similar developments recently with London Electricity. After a rise in the number of complaints about its service the Charter Unit launched an investigation. The research showed that standards had been falling. After a report back to the independent Charter Mark judges London Electricity was given six months to pull its socks up — it will be looked at again at the end of January. Baroness Perry of Southwark, the judges chairman, said: "It is important that we take action immediately to sort the problem out. London Electricity have their own action plan in hand and I hope that this, together with the further steps that we have agreed with them, will help them to deliver an excellent service to their customers again."

Among the various people consulted on London Electricity's performance, Offer (the electricity regulator) and the Electricity Consumers' committee were prominent. The Charter Unit now makes it clear that it wants to hear from regulators, sponsoring government departments, local education authorities and the public if things go wrong with Charter Mark winners.

If you want prestige and recognition for having done a good job then you put yourself on a pedestal, from which you can be dislodged if you start to let standards slip.

Mike Kinski, Southern Water's chairman, celebrates the Charter Mark Award for his company

Already the Charter Unit has found that the public is willing to write in with complaints if they see a winner behaving badly. Supportive though they normally are when questioned by the assessors, they are prompt to blow the whistle when let down.

This has interesting repercussions for the Charter Unit. The last ten years have seen a massive increase in the amount of external regulation and scrutiny of public services. To the various public utility regulators must be added Ofsted, the new Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, and the Training Standards Council, plus the scrutiny of sponsoring departments to the numerous executive agencies which now employ the overwhelming majority of civil servants.

Peter Kilfoyle, the Public Service Minister, has already commented that while he supports the arm's length relationship between ministers and executive agencies, in many cases their terms of reference have been "plucked out of thin air".

Does this mean then that the Cabinet Office's Charter Unit will be assuming a supreme overseeing role over the performance of the public sector? Charter Unit officials reject the notion, arguing that what they are looking for in their criteria are different from the concerns of others. We serve as a counterbalance to the 'league table' approach, they say. Objective performance cannot reflect the impact of local conditions or disadvantages nor the 'added value' provided by the organisation.

However, the Charter Mark criteria can give recognition to the real achievements of organisations which may be fighting against the odds in an area of deprivation.

Likewise they can be used to strike at the hubris of a monopolistic organisation whose balance sheet may be excellent but whose customer satisfaction level is very low.

There is no doubt that the Charter Marks are coveted. For example, all three housing associations within Anglia Housing Group have won one, and Peter Lewis, chief executive, says "we are exceptionally proud". Hackney council is anxious to spread the news that with four awards it beats the rest of London.

But for those organisations who are celebrating their success today a modicum of sobriety is also required. Having won your award you must stay on your mettle to keep it.

GILL ALLEN

Bouquets at Kensington Palace: the gardens are run by the Royal Parks Agency, which has been awarded a second Charter Mark

Under the world's spotlight

THOUSANDS of mourners made a pilgrimage to Kensington Gardens to pay tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, in September. *Amanda Loose writes.* One of the eight royal parks that also include St James's, the gardens are run by the Royal Parks Agency, which has been awarded its second Charter Mark.

The agency has introduced several schemes since winning its first Charter Mark in 1994 to make the royal parks more accessible and visitor-friendly. The area in front of Buckingham Palace has been pedestrianised; cycling facilities have been increased, while the Royal Parks Constabulary has set up a special squad to assist tourists.

Community awareness programmes are taking off countrywide, reports **Amanda Loose**

Punching it home with the road safety rap

ROAD SAFETY lessons will never be the same again in Norfolk, thanks to PC Colin Lang and the Reflections Road Show, a mobile disco with a difference. Winner of Charter Marks best staff suggestion award, PC Lang and his roadshow visit eight to 12-year-olds in schools across the county, making road safety fun.

Inspector Bernadette Cartwright of the Norfolk Constabulary believes it is a tremendous idea, which has really taken off. She says: "PC Lang visits each school two weeks before their disco and gives each child a copy of the Junior Highway Code which they must learn, and asks them all to devise a road safety rap. The best three are performed at the roadshow."

The constabulary is also launching a drink-driving campaign this Christmas, which includes a small card with space for taxi numbers and so on, and a freephone hotline number which people can ring if they suspect someone over the limit is driving.

Working with school children and concentrating on crime prevention is an essential part of the work of the police force in Hampshire, whose Andover division and its community relations department have been awarded Charter Marks this year.

The department is running a programme in schools called Getting it Right which informs children about the dangers of substance abuse. The Rock Challenge, a performing arts competition for secondary schools, aims to reduce crime and drug abuse among teenagers. Special officers have also been appointed to improve relations between the police and the gay and lesbian communities.

Community firefighting is also catching on. The West Midlands Fire Service has launched several initiatives to educate residents about fire prevention. The fire safety programme has reduced the number of fire-related deaths from about 50 in 1991, to around 20 in 1996. The service has introduced a special smoke alarm for the elderly and disabled with a switch and battery on the wall instead of the ceiling so they can test them more easily.

Neighbours could be lifesavers

First-aid training attracts village volunteers

Villagers in Thorncombe, near Chard, Dorset, are being trained in basic first-aid techniques, in the first stage of a scheme to help ambulance services meet call-out target times in rural areas. Trained volunteers will then be on hand to administer treatment before ambulances arrive, starting, for example, resuscitation in the event of heart attacks. *Amanda Loose writes.*

The new targets, to be introduced in 2000, will require ambulances to reach 75 out of 100 life-threatening cases within eight minutes — but many services will find that difficult to meet, says John Cape, chief executive of the Dorset Ambulance NHS Trust.

"The chances of survival for cases like heart attacks are improved if we arrive within eight minutes, and start resuscitation. But you don't need to be a paramedic to do this," he says. "If we have a dozen or so volunteers in a village who are on call on a rota system, then they can attend an incident initially, and we can follow up with an ambulance within 19 minutes."

The Charter Mark-winning scheme was launched two months ago in Thorncombe, and has a rigorous selection procedure. So far, 40 volunteers have been enrolled on a basic first-aid course, from which 20 or 30 will go on to a more advanced course. Then 12 or 15 will be chosen to learn resuscitation techniques.

Heart patients also benefit from the innovative programmes run by King's Healthcare NHS Trust's Cardiac Rehabilitation Department in London. Care begins on the ward, and extends to post-hospital exercise classes and leisure activities, offering support to those who have suffered heart attacks or heart surgery.

The benefits of the scheme, set up by cardiac rehabilitation nurse Judith Imich just over four years ago, were shown in a survey of patients six months after they were discharged. About 70 per cent who had taken part in the programme were back at work, compared with 38 per cent who did not.

Nurse Imich says: "People have many misconceptions, and imagine that a heart attack is the end of their life. But the scheme offers them the chance to meet other patients and to take control of their health."

Counselling initially takes place in hospital, where risk factors such as smoking are explained, and information about getting back on their feet at home is supplied. When discharged, local nurses who work with the unit visit the patients, and later they are invited to the Heart Beat Club, which runs exercise classes, health education and relaxation in conjunction with local leisure services.

Social and support groups examine topics such as diet, and Hearts in the Park walking schemes are led by Cardiac Rehabilitation Nurses and park rangers.

Rehabilitation is central to the work of the Southern Birmingham Community Health NHS Trust's Oak Tree Lane Centre. Much of their work is with patients in wheelchairs or with artificial limbs, and involves basic care and counselling, as well as the latest in medical technology.

The centre has been involved with the development of the intelligent leg, made from the same carbon fibre used for Harrier jump jets, with a programmable microchip that allows users to run and walk at different speeds. Voice synthesizers have been used to help patients who are unable to communicate.

But, says Chris Brothwell, deputy general manager, the centre emphasises the importance of the individual and their personal needs. A young sportsman may need to be shown how he can go back to his sport; a more elderly person how they can simply cope with day-to-day living.

"Many of our patients, particularly amputees, have been in hospital for many weeks or even months. We concentrate on transforming them from a patient to a person, looking at what different patients want to achieve, and what their expectations are."

ANGLIA HOUSING GROUP

is delighted to announce that all three housing association members have achieved a Charter Mark award for excellence.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,658.90	Allied Domecq	534	-16	4.6	13.7
220.40	Balmer (HP)	417½	..	4.3	11.6
28.50	Burn Stewart	48	+1½	8.9	16.7
129.20	Glenmorangie A	950	..	1.8	22.6
11,421.40	Grand Met	539	-42	3.5	17.3
18,181.50	Guinness	537	-38	3.6	14.6
416.90	Highland Dist	312½	-1½	3.6	14.1
707.70	Matthew Clark	234	+11½	12.8	7.0
5.45	Morland W	50	..	7.6	12.3
4,360.30	SA Breweries	1446½	-34½	2.5	..

BANKS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
15,887.00	ABN-AMRO	1140¾	-69¾	2.7	16.6
13,343.40	Abbey Nat	945	-25	3.7	15.5
4,748.60	Alliance & Leic	730	+12	2.8	17.1
4,369.30	Allied Irish	516½	-2	3.5	14.7
8,079.30	Aus New Z	407½	-13¾	5.0	..
35,400.20	Bank America	4340¾	-175		
6,151.70	Bank Scotland	503	-13	3.2	13.9
21,691.30	Barclays	1428	-31	2.9	13.6
3,911.60	Bk of Ireland	800½	+9½	2.6	17.5
34,147.10	Citicorp	7068¾	-569¼		
6,591.60	Commerzbk	1631¼	-9¾	2.8	
14,595.90	Dai Ichi Kan Y	469¾	+21¼	0.8	
19,145.70	Deutsche Bk	3828½	-31¼	1.6	
458.20	Espirito Santo	1168¾	-32½	3.1	
9,129.90	Fuji Bank Y	315	-7¼	1.3	67.3
13,183.70	HSBC	1509	-58	3.8	12.2
26,002.90	HSBC HK	1443	-45	4.0	11.7
17,068.00	Halifax	680	-30	2.7	22.9
498.80	Irish Perm	580	-10	2.7	16.0
36,416.20	Lloyds TSB	675	-3	2.6	19.7
11,768.30	Nat Aust Bk	786½	-39¼	5.0	
15,544.40	Nat West	838	-6	4.2	14.2
2,132.90	Northern Rock	481½	+3	2.3	19.0
5,856.60	Ryl Bk Scot	681	-11	4.0	13.0
6,529.00	Stand Chart	657½	-70½	2.9	11.5
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	£164¾	..	1.9	
6,643.30	Westpac	373½	-7½	3.9	
4,840.00	Woolwich	302½	+1½	3.3	17.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,548.00	Bass	830	-18½	3.8	15.9
17.60	Bdk for the Bdr	52½	-1½	4.3	11.1
31.70	Burtonwd Brw	153½	..	5.8	13.3
290.50	City Centre Rest	129	-1½	2.4	30.0
2,317.10	Compass Gp	706	+11½	1.6	25.9
56.50	Eldridge P A	266½	+6	2.6	14.7
159.70	Enterprise Inns	246	-10½	3.9	
59.40	Fulls Sm 'A'	427½	..	2.9	14.9
1,124.00	Greenalls Grp	380	-9½	5.2	9.4
394.50	Greene King	652	-1½	3.1	14.0
28.30	Grosvenor Inns	199½	+7	4.0	30.8
52.60	Groupe Chez Gerl	281½	..	1.4	22.7
43.00	Hardy Hanson	215	-11½	6.4	9.6
60.90	Holt J	2175	..	3.4	12.2
44.90	Inn Business	58½	-1	3.5	9.3
194.60	Mansfield	297½	+2¼	3.0	13.1
245.30	Marston Thmp	271	..	3.7	9.4
159.60	Morland	492½	..	3.3	12.7
68.70	Old Eng Publ	241½	..	1.2	19.1
2.56	Paramount	21½			
555.70	PizzaExpress	839½	+33	0.5	43.4
30.70	Ramsdens (H)	330	+7½	1.9	29.2
293.90	Regent Inns	329½	-12¼	1.3	26.6
67.10	SFI	114	+7	0.8	24.3
4,295.10	Scot & New	695	-7	3.8	14.9
364.60	Vaux Group	255	-1½	5.3	11.5
601.50	Wetherspoon JD	308	-12	0.8	35.6
4,101.30	Whitbread	837	-18	3.6	14.5
310.90	Wolvrhmptn D	458½	+7½	5.2	10.1
219.60	Yates Bros	347½	-2½	1.1	24.9
19.10	Young 'A'	660	+¼	3.0	27.3

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5.08	AAF Inds	22	+1	..	..
89.10	Abbey	230	..	2.7	..
147.10	Allen	354½	-8	2.6	31.2
261.10	Amec	127½	-3	4.2	
132.90	Amey	455	-8	2.7	16.8
107.80	Andrews Sykes	700	+40	2.1	17.2
517.40	Ashtead	171	-4	1.3	23.6
16.70	Avonside	38½	-½	4.9	8.0
41.50	Bandl	29½	..	4.7	25.8
27.80	Barcom	50½	-½	3.2	15.5
565.40	Barratt Devs	243½	-6	4.6	12.3
461.00	Beazer	164	-6½	5.0	10.5
353.50	Bellway	347½	-12¼	3.4	11.4
8.79	Belwinch	19½	-1	..	8.6
5.36	Ben Bailey	51	..	3.9	7.2
832.00	Berkeley Gp▲	671	-3½	1.8	14.6
24.10	Bird Bros	161	..	5.4	4.7
78.90	Boot (Henry)	291	-28½	3.5	11.4
27.10	Brandon Hire	120½	-1	3.0	16.1
7.18	Britannia Grp	31½	-2	3.6	6.0
328.90	Bryant	114½	..	5.5	12.3
44.60	CALA	109½	-1	4.5	8.3
3.92	Campbell & Arm	3½	-¼	..	
10.30	Clarke T	83½	..	7.9	9.8
75.80	Costain	22½	-9		
71.10	Countryside	90	+2	3.4	14.4
107.00	Crest Nicholson	107½	..	3.7	13.2
17.30	Dussek	96½	-1	5.5	9.6
14.60	Eve Group	149	-1	3.8	17.6
17.30	Galliford	19½	-½	6.7	12.7
105.30	Gleeson (MJ)	1032½	-10	2.2	16.7
41.60	Havelock Euro	149	-6	3.9	9.6
463.20	Hewden-Stuart	166¾	-3	2.6	23.3
4.75	Howard Hldgs	18	+1½	5.6	16.3
393.80	Jarvis	340	+15½	1.9	27.9
108.90	Keller	194½	-½	3.1	13.5
66.60	Kier	210½	..	2.7	11.3
157.80	Laing (J)	341½	-5	3.6	28.9
47.40	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	118	-2	6.8	
4.38	Lovell (YJ)	11	-¼		
45.40	Maunders (J)	181	..	4.4	11.1
155.50	McAlpine (A)	128	+1½	6.8	18.2
125.70	McCarthy & S	126	+7	3.0	
18.90	McInerney	75			
55.60	Morgan Sindall	166½	..	3.4	11.3
218.10	Morrison Cons	325	..	2.0	20.6
168.90	Mowlem (J)	95½	-½	4.6	9.3
380.30	Persimmon	214	..	5.7	10.8
14.70	Pochin	89	+¼	5.5	20.1
21.60	Pochins	105	..	3.0	12.2
92.70	Prowting	118	+1½	4.4	10.9
327.90	Redrow	146	-3	3.1	12.8
32.90	Spandex	225	-2½	1.8	12.6
60.90	Swan Hill	88½	-½	3.7	
39.30	Tay Homes	134½	-½	7.0	11.9
690.40	Taylor Woodrw	174	-11	2.7	13.3
188.00	Tilbury Dougls	222½	-28½	5.3	13.9
14.20	Try Group	30½	-¼	..	9.6
28.60	Vibroplant	82	-½	8.2	
75.30	Wardmore	120	-2½	4.9	16.9
37.60	Ward Hldgs	52½	-1		
217.20	Westbury	240	-11½	3.6	11.9
74.70	Wiggins	10½	+¼	..	15.9
333.30	Wilson (C)	167½	..	3.7	17.0
488.10	Wilson Bowdn	522½	+8	2.7	13.7
355.90	Wimpey G	108½	-½	6.3	11.6

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
616.30	Aggregate Inds	51¼	+3	4.9	22.9
1,744.50	BPB	339	+18	3.7	15.3
37.50	Baggeridge Brk	91½	..	4.3	23.1
10.60	Blockleys	42½	-1	0.5	..
2,573.80	Blue Circle	340	-5	4.7	14.2
28.00	Breedon PLC	101½	-1	8.4	13.9
24.20	Br Dredging	138½	-2½	5.6	10.5
2,661.70	CRH	687½	+13½	1.4	17.2
2.67	Cakebread Roy	44½	..	8.7	4.4
62.70	Cape	115½	-8	6.5	9.0
981.50	Caradon	188	+½	6.3	9.3
198.00	Caradon pf	110	+1	8.2	
4.95	Chelton Gp	57½	..	7.4	5.7
3.66	Dyson (J&J)	221	+3½	3.3	12.9
16.70	Dyson 'A'	121	..	5.9	7.0
26.30	Ennstone	57½	-10		
44.50	Epwin	203	..	5.7	12.4
1.73	Gibbs & Dandy	101½	-2	4.7	10.8
231.90	Graham Grp	166	+½	4.4	23.9
83.70	Halstead (J)	272½	+27½	4.4	19.2
1,956.30	Hanson	300½	+16½	5.0	12.0
593.40	Hepworth	242	-1	6.4	16.5
22.00	Hewetson	135	-2½	8.0	8.8
214.10	Heywd Wlm	235½	-5	7.3	9.7
246.00	Ibstock	53	..	4.7	19.9
37.40	Johnston	350	..	4.3	12.8
21.60	Lilleshall	76	+1½	8.0	9.8
341.50	Marley	101	-2½	5.7	9.9
174.40	Marshalls	139½	-1	4.7	17.2
612.10	Meyer Intl▲	384	+8	4.1	14.1
127.10	Norcros	76½	..	3.1	16.6
1,327.70	Pilkington	128	-7½	4.6	16.1
354.70	Polypipe	211	-1½	2.0	15.8
44.00	Quadgold	22½	-1	..	32.2
2,320.60	RMC Gp	896	-14	3.5	12.6
1,786.50	Redland	342½	+5	6.1	18.0
41.50	Roberoid	86	-1	7.1	16.0
797.10	Rugby Group	123½	-1½	3.8	24.2
21.30	Russell (A)	85½	-2	4.1	13.0
338.90	SIG	287	+8½	3.2	14.7
5.81	SRP	3	..	..	16.3
51.00	Sharpe & Fisher	236½	..	3.3	14.8
56.70	Sandg Rans	12½	-½		
100.80	Streamline Hldgs	162½	+1	6.8	10.0
1,076.50	Tarmac	135½	+3	6.0	14.6
9.35	Tilon	85	-2½	4.2	8.1
516.90	Travis Perkns	497¼	..	2.6	17.5
5.94	Tudor	53½	..	6.2	10.6
162.80	Ulbstone	175½	-2	2.5	23.5
2,895.60	Wolseley	508	-7	2.9	16.1

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
475.00	Albright & W	151½	-7½	5.4	15.7
1,157.50	Allied Colloids	168	+4½	2.3	24.9
16.80	Amber Ind	107½	+7	6.8	8.4
66.50	Amberley Gp	108	+½	1.9	18.2
9.19	Anglo Utd	1			
12,972.70	BASF DM	2100	-9¾	2.7	
4,602.10	BOC	945	-1½	3.7	15.9
537.50	BTP	319	-7½	4.6	15.8
15,863.20	Bayer DM50	2303¾	+21¼	2.6	
67.30	Brent Chems	99½	-2½	4.1	10.7
542.70	Br Vita	245	+2½	4.3	13.2
109.20	Burmah Moss	143½	..	7.6	7.9
77.20	Canning (W)	264½	+13½	4.2	12.7
101.00	Cky Technology	213½	-9	3.1	20.0
1,116.40	Courtaulds	274½	+14½	6.1	11.8
495.20	Croda	386	..	3.2	15.4
37.50	Dartex	215½	..	4.6	9.2
264.50	Ellis & Everard	384½	-3	4.3	13.1
30.30	Euro Colour	66	+6½	4.7	11.8
15.20	Gibbon	143½	..	6.1	13.0
104.70	Hickson	59½	-3½	..	91.4
12,435.30	Hoechst	2109¾	-118¾	2.2	
182.90	Holliday Chem	174	-4½	4.1	12.6
6,368.50	ICI	876	-23	4.2	30.1
385.20	Inspec	220½	-6	3.7	10.9
511.20	Kalon	144	-½	4.8	21.5
1,231.90	Laporte	634	-5	4.5	12.8
59.70	Manders	149½	-5	9.6	18.7
17.60	Manstain	47½	+½	5.8	6.2
8.44	Metrotect	35	+7½	3.8	8.7
79.10	Porvair	309	-3½	3.3	26.1
543.50	Scapa	225½	-2	3.3	12.2
30.10	Smith Speak	20	+1	7.5	8.4
15,120.20	Takeda Chem	1729	-9½	0.4	31.8
157.20	Victrex	201	+4½	2.8	18.9
56.20	Wardstone R	690	+10	4.7	12.9
99.20	Yorks Grp	216½	-1	5.3	
319.10	Yule Catto	313½	-4½	3.7	13.2

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
59.30	Action Gp Splst	183½	-3	1.7	
14.50	Adam & Harvey	337½	+1	8.4	5.1
4.03	Alexanders	10	..	1.2	
52.30	Appleyard	78½	..	5.7	
5.25	Ass Br Eng	2	..	..	78.4
135.00	BSS Group	470	-10	5.5	15.6
5.78	Bearing Power	15	-¼		
3.06	Bogod 'A'	25½	..	3.2	7.0
279.00	Brammer	800	-11	3.4	14.5
5.20	Bridgend Gp	13	-1	1.9	58.9
24.10	Brit Fittings	85	-2½	6.9	7.6
11.10	Callyns	337½	+12½	4.9	7.6
70.60	Car Group	184½	+1	3.2	
46.90	Caverdale	170	+1	3.5	7.8
34.70	Charles Sidney	83½	-1½	4.7	11.9
18.60	Cook (DC)	43	+1	7.0	5.8
19.20	Dag Motors	89	-1	10.1	6.4
18.10	Dennans B	102½	-½	3.4	9.4
127.20	Diploma	227½	-4	8.3	
1,783.60	Electrocomponents	417½	-10¼	2.4	22.5
81.70	Eurodis Elec	139	-12	4.8	27.2
50.60	European Mtr	94	-8	8.1	7.1
93.18	Evans Halshaw	280	-2½	7.1	..
7.36	Ffs Indns	47½	..	8.9	7.8
261.90	Finelist Gp	381	-½	2.9	14.7
21.60	Gardner	20	-2½	3.8	7.4
19.80	Gerchwinten	86	-1	3.0	10.7
8.86	Gowlings	98½	-1	3.9	16.5
20.80	HR Owen	12½	-1	7.1	8.6
6.71	Hamlet#	22½	..	..	2.1
220.70	Headlam	425	+3½	2.3	19.7
6.20	Holders Tech	155	..	5.2	12.7
34.60	ISA Intl	82½	-3½	4.5	8.4
1,118.30	Inchcape	211	+4	5.8	13.9
6.21	Jacks (Wm)	57½	+3	5.4	7.4
579.60	Kwik-Fit	326	+7	2.2	17.9
497.30	Lex Service	435½	+18½	4.7	13.1
36.60	Lookers	103½	-½	8.1	7.8
16.00	Middlesex	5¾	-¼	2.2	14.1
10.80	Midstock	20½	+1½	2.9	
34.10	Morton	310	-8½	3.4	10.5
76.40	Northamberl	224	+8	1.4	15.6
40.40	Parcot	265½	+½	3.5	15.2
171.80	Pendragon	282½	-1½	4.5	12.4
47.50	Perry Grp	180½	-1	6.4	8.0
1,095.90	Premier Farnell	403½	-10	3.9	14.9
46.20	Quicks Group	122½	+1	7.7	8.1
27.00	REA	280	+2½	1.7	64.1
2.66	Reece	1½	..	..	50.2
10.30	Ronson	11½			
4.43	Ross Gp	3	+¼		
29.40	Ryland	103½	+4	4.9	9.8
27.70	SEP Indl	28	+½	6.9	12.9
8.16	Salms	31½	+¼	4.8	
118.40	Time Products	218½	-6½	7.3	8.8
24.90	Toad Motor Grp	166	-½	8.6	7.2
62.00	UMECO	395	-1½	1.8	21.0
100.30	United Carriers Gp	84	-3	0.6	18.7
154.70	Vardy (Reg)	277½	-11	3.4	13.2
94.20	WF Elect	645	-1	2.9	22.1
33.70	Wishaw	36	-½	3.0	9.7
104.50	Wyko	148	-1½	2.5	16.4
33.40	Young (H)	148½	..	3.6	12.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
561.90	Antofagasta▼	357½	-22½	1.8	18.3
204.50	Ascot Hldgs	251½	-18	2.6	11.0
10,837.60	Broken Hill	545½	-28¾	3.8	14.6
8,298.10	BTR	205½	-½	5.4	7.1
16,529.30	BAT	532	-8	6.1	13.1
112.60	Brierley Inv	42¼	-¼	11.3	8.9
1,407.60	Cookson	204½	+3	4.9	12.8
28.80	Cosalt	234½	+19	6.2	
322.10	DCC	388½	-6½	2.5	14.5
2,215.20	Galliher	321	-2½	7.5	10.0
846.10	Harrison Crsfld	118	-2½	9.3	13.2
14,235.90	Hutch Whamp	393½	-17¼	2.9	24.4
2,052.70	Imperial Tob	394	-2½	6.3	7.9
2,401.30	Jardine Math	320½	-13¼	4.6	12.7
722.20	Lonrho	91	-2	6.5	8.5
104.40	McLeod Russel	167	-2	5.4	
403.50	Powell Duffryn	469½	+10	6.8	11.9
188.80	Staveley	145	-1½	7.9	18.7
2,880.80	Swire Pacific	294¾	-16½	4.6	
503.70	TT Group	287	-18	3.4	12.1
3,551.80	Tomkins	301	-11	4.1	13.8
39.10	Unitor	197½	+12½	8.7	
104.10	Wardle Storeys	405	..	6.3	12.4
497.90	Wassall	320	+2½	2.7	14.3
57.40	Williecroft	129½	+4¼	4.5	21.0

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3,821.00	Br Energy	403	-14	4.4	39.2
3,311.00	Energy Group	635½	-1	4.2	13.5
5,050.90	National Grid	294	-2	5.0	13.4
6,865.20	National Power	565½	+14	6.3	7.5
719.50	Nthn Ireland	511	+4	5.3	35.3
4,923.40	PowerGen	784½	+2½	4.4	11.5
1,838.10	Hydro-Elect	469½	+14½	4.7	11.2
5,659.20	Scottish Power	480	-6	5.1	11.7
2,147.10	Southern Elec	449	-10½	6.3	11.8

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
73.30	Acal	364½	..	3.3	12.2
130.90	Acorn	143½	+5		
386.20	Admiral	611	-25	0.5	46.0
37.10	Amstrad	35½	-½	1.8	16.7
23.60	Arlen	31½	-1½	4.7	6.3
354.90	Astec	115	+6½	2.0	13.5
61.20	Aston	57½	-4		
640.80	BICC	152½	+1½	10.2	14.1
6.52	Beales Hunter	81½	-1½	21.7	4.3
81.40	Blick	282½	+12½	6.7	7.7
762.80	Bowthorpe	391	-2½	3.3	15.6
3.59	Bulgin A	13½	-¼	6.9	16.4
24.40	CML Micro	153½	+2½	5.0	18.3
27.80	Chanel Hldgs	30½	+1½	6.8	10.5
96.70	Chloride	39½	+2	2.2	9.5
13.40	Claytithe	65½	..	6.6	7.4
116.70	Critchley	725	..	2.2	19.4
392.70	Delta	262	-8	7.2	9.6
9.89	Domino	386½	-21½	3.7	16.9
113.70	Dowding Mills	74½	..	5.4	12.6
86.60	Druck	277½	..	0.8	29.4
3,315.70	Electrolux 'B'	4668½	-71¼	2.1	24.2
24.10	Emess	22½	-1½	2.2	15.0
21,223.30	Ericsson 'B'	2425	-153½	0.8	
14.60	Eurocopy	29½	..	11.4	4.5
325.00	Eurotherm	357¼	+1	3.2	14.3
556.10	Farnell Group	556	+6	1.9	18.8
186.50	Filtronic Com	422	+7	0.4	65.0
4.14	Forward Tech	12	..	2.6	..
10,774.70	GEC	385½	-9½	4.3	21.0
135.00	Graseby	209	-½	2.3	17.5
17.90	Ind Control	32½	-3½	7.7	5.3
6.60	Intelek	15½	+3½	7.9	
8.55	Kode	93	-½	5.5	7.5
5.24	LPA Ind	57	-½	4.5	16.2
158.30	Marvin-Sw	305	..	2.7	15.2
9.24	Microvitec	11½	-¼	9.3	
449.80	Mitel	435			
44.70	Network Tech	125	+4	1.3	
161.40	Oxford Inst	323½	-10½	3.0	11.3
109.30	Pace Micro	51	-½	6.6	9.0
96.70	Peek	79	+1	4.2	24.8
13,374.20	Philips Lmp av	3953¾	-337½	1.2	
8.59	Plasmec	179	+22½	4.5	10.6
8.46	Plasmon	43½	-10	2.9	
131.20	Pressac	262½	-5	2.0	19.2
13.80	Prestwick	34	+3	3.7	10.3
316.50	Psion	422½	-36	0.7	34.9
622.40	Racal Elec	218	-5	3.4	26.2
17.80	Radamec	95½	-1	4.1	14.8
250.80	Renishaw	345	+7½	3.1	21.2
3.81	Rodime	1½			
111.80	Roxboro	199	-2½	4.3	12.3
75.80	SDX Bus Sys	213½	-1	1.3	27.9
30.70	Servomex	298½	..	3.5	16.6
36.60	Siltronics	43½	-7	4.0	12.0
6,425.90	TDK	4825	-9¾	0.5	
12.60	TGI	58	-½	7.5	6.2
193.30	TLG	106	..	5.1	13.2
4.25	Tadpole Tech	8¼	-1		
53.80	Telemetrix	58½	..	3.1	25.3
67.80	Telspec	212½	+12½		
22.30	Thorpe FW	172½	+6	3.3	10.7
7.07	Total Systems	70	..	2.2	25.4
33.70	Tunstall	102	..	6.3	7.0
190.80	Verity	65½	-3½	0.2	
56.80	Vero	94½	..	7.7	7.4
61.00	Videon Technology	50	-26½		
144.70	Volex	515	-16½	5.3	13.9
2.39	Wakebourne#	10½			

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
42.70	AIM	292½	-91½	3.8	9.5
32.10	ASW	38½	-3½		
125.90	Alumasc	312½	..	3.4	12.4
88.70	Alvis▲	155	+6½	2.6	29.5
63.00	Ash & Lacy	168½	-4	5.5	8.2
9.75	Ayrshire Metal	97½	..	7.1	5.4
1,574.90	BBA	377½	+7	2.3	18.9
44.00	BM	93	-2	5.5	10.0
130.40	Babcock	77	-5	2.1	
4.12	Bailey (CH)	7½	..	4.3	
176.40	Baynes (Charles)	107	-6	3.5	12.5
21.70	Beauford	27½	+2½	3.6	12.8
11.10	Benson Group	32½	-15	5.9	30.3
286.50	Bensford Intl	187½	+25½	3.8	8.7
190.90	Bensford Loan	82½	+6	6.0	
768.80	Bodycote	952½	-35	1.1	25.4
3.40	Boulin Inds	42½			
16.70	Brasway	20½	..	5.4	7.9
7,029.60	Br Aerospace	1616	+28	1.3	19.9
2,689.00	Br Steel	138½	-5½	9.0	12.6
8.93	Brooke Tool	117½	..	3.8	7.7
19.00	Brunel	15½	+2	4.0	8.5
137.90	Bullough	113½	..	8.2	19.8
24.90	Carbo	31½	..	4.8	
133.10	Cardo Eng	216½	-5	8.2	14.0
90.50	Castings	211½	+1	2.9	12.8
14.10	Clarkson Hill	190	-2	5.3	8.6
696.00	Charter	723½	-13	4.9	10.6
40.30	Chemring	170	+31½	7.1	
42.90	Clyde Blowers	280	..	3.0	61.7
743.50	Cobham	795	+27½	1.9	22.3
3.60	Cohen (A)	450			
66.80	Concentric	122½	+1	7.8	
143.40	David Brown	216	+6½	5.0	12.8
162.90	ES	308½	-3	5.6	10.4
6.75	Elecs	17½	-1		
30.10	Elliott (B)	76½	-1	5.2	10.0
73.30	Ensanol	115½	-½	3.8	13.0
1,046.30	FKI	184½	-6½	3.7	16.5
192.60	Fenner	189½	-2½	2.9	
3.87	Ferrum	1½			
26.80	Firth Hldgs	32	-1	1.0	14.8
151.20	Firth Rixson	108½	..	2.1	18.1
13.60	Flare	46½	-3½	2.7	4.1
38.60	GEI Intl	102	+3	5.6	10.2
5.66	Galton Engt	145	-5½	7.0	5.2
564.80	Glynwed	229½	-3	6.9	9.7
14.50	Graystone	38½	..	7.5	
111.40	Hadon MacLn	98	..	3.7	11.3
15.40	Hadleigh	205	-7½	4.3	9.7
96.50	Hall Eng	181½	+12½	5.5	7.7
384.00	Halma	186½	+1½	2.7	15.2
83.60	Hampson Ind	73½	-1½	4.3	14.9
5.25	Hay (Norman)	35	+2½	..	14.9
8.48	Headway	40	..	4.1	6.3
22.70	Hill & Smith	57½	..	13.5	9.8
28.90	How Grp	68½	-1	3.9	11.1
205.60	Hunting Assc	307	+½	5.4	13.7
1,257.00	IMI	351	-11½	4.3	13.0
1,192.30	Johnson Matth	548¼	+3½	2.8	13.2
8.61	Jones Stroud	33½	-1	5.6	5.9
12.90	Kelsey Ind	415	..	7.8	13.5
30.90	Linsol	321½	..	4.0	11.9
31.60	Lucas (T)	39½	-½	3.2	14.5
87.50	ML Hldgs	52	..	3.8	15.6
5.34	MS Intl	19½			
81.80	Marg Bronze	459½	-11	2.6	12.6
473.00	McKechnie	445	-7½	4.7	12.0
320.80	Meggitt	146	-½	3.7	18.5
100.40	Metalrax	81	..	5.8	12.3
18.90	MetalTech	12½			
22.90	Mayes	147½	..	3.6	8.6
123.40	Molins	347½	..	7.9	14.3
1,013.00	Morgan Cble	443½	-4	4.2	14.7
41.80	Morris Ashby	345½	-5½	3.1	15.4
9.88	Neepsend	39½	+8½	6.4	8.4
12.60	Old Intl	17	+2	6.7	11.1
16.80	Polyhedron	54½	..	8.6	8.1
598.60	Powerscreen	658½	+16	2.0	17.0
6.55	Prospect Inds#	1½			
93.40	Quadramatic	185½	+12	6.8	
3.10	Quadrant Grp	50	..	..	
0.75	Radiant Metal	55	..	..	
79.70	Ransomes	87½	..	1.1	
184.50	Renold	288	+2	3.1	10.9
31.40	Richardson West	86½	-1	6.2	7.9
3,502.60	Rolls-Royce	237	-8	2.9	16.3
240.70	Rotork	274½	-3	3.8	19.5
96.50	Robicon	110	..	7.2	9.0
879.60	SKF 'B'	1381½	-63½	2.9	..
467.40	Senior Engt	153½	-8	3.0	18.7
88.60	Sintrd-Fire	437½	+3	2.1	19.4
5,449.60	Siebe	1077	-8	1.5	20.6
67.20	Sin Hontrad	120	-3½	5.3	8.4
2,370.20	Smiths Inds	774	-20½	2.9	18.2
436.10	Spirax-Sarco	559	-25	3.2	14.2
73.70	Sterling Ind	242½	-8	5.2	8.7
2,282.00	TI	479½	-10½	3.6	15.2
18.59	Tasley (E)	113½	-3	6.7	10.7
174.10	Tranitec	98½	-1	3.1	13.3
138.50	Triplex Lloyd	208	+2	4.4	13.9
259.10	Ultra Elect	352½	+2	2.3	20.6
24.00	Utd Inds	53½	-½	5.8	13.7
782.70	Vickers	231½	-4½	3.9	14.4
8.57	Villiers Grp	7½	-¼		
304.50	Vitec	626½	-7½	2.5	11.9
276.90	Vosper Thorny	852	-2	4.0	13.0
135.20	Wagon Ind	257½	+2½	6.0	11.1
525.50	Weir	258½	..	4.0	12.6
39.80	Wellington Hdg	168½	..	6.0	9.8
53.70	Wellman	35½	+¼	8.3	11.6
36.00	Wescott	65	-5	2.3	18.6
185.70	Whatman	792½	-2½	2.2	23.2
5.26	Widney	43½	-1½	10.1	..

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
124.50	Adwest	150	-½	5.6	12.2
13.60	Airflow Stream	160	-7	8.2	11.5
171.20	Avon Rubber	625	..	4.0	13.0
57.80	Bostrom	340	-1½	2.6	17.0
388.70	Britax	123½	..	3.5	16.1
176.40	Dennis	315	+2½	3.7	14.4
150.00	First Tech	314½	+5¼	1.4	24.8
4,556.00	GKN	1287	+2	2.5	
26,048.90	General Mtr	3616¾	-25	3.3	
215.70	Hartes	405½	+2½	4.8	9.7
20,821.10	Honda Motor	2157	+74	0.4	
607.90	Laird	427½	-11	3.4	
2,665.70	LucasVarity	190	-1½	2.6	14.7
439.40	Mayflower	170	-6½	1.8	24.1
27.90	Syltone	115	-5½	7.2	9.3
1,364.00	T & N	250½	..	4.6	..
3.45	Tead	20½	-3½		

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,909.50	AB Food	545½	-25½	2.3	17.3
125.30	Acatos & Hutch	286	..	4.6	24.0
266.40	Albert Fisher	37	+½	11.4	9.7
27.10	Banks (S C)	291½	-7½	4.9	10.4
77.40	Barr (AG)	399	+4	3.3	14.3
17.10	Bensons Crsp	33½	-8	4.2	8.3
761.00	Booker	310	-5½	9.7	
13.00	CPL Aromas	99½	-½	6.1	28.1
6,205.40	Cadbury-Schw	615	-13	3.3	16.6
22.40	Carrs Milling	280	..	6.3	
47.60	Cavaghan	71	+1½	6.5	13.2
36.30	Carwads	253½	..	5.2	11.9
282.00	Dairy Crest Group	255	-3	5.0	10.8
741.50	Dalgety	255½	+15	6.5	
25.50	Daniels St	35½	+½	1.2	19.8
638.40	Devro	401	-4½	2.7	18.0
113.60	Finlay (James)	113½	-½	4.0	20.8
270.10	Geest	371	-1	2.9	17.4
19.70	Global	13½	-1½	6.2	7.0
516.50	Greencore	275	..	3.0	12.0
361.70	Hazlewood Fds	153½	+12	3.5	12.1
1,101.40	Hillsdown	155	-13	8.1	9.7
23.00	JLI Group	59	+5½	10.8	12.0
76.30	Linton Park	383½	+1½	5.2	8.2
117.70	Matthews (B)	94½	-4½	5.6	9.1
84.20	Nichols (V)	221½	-4	4.1	12.4
1,529.80	Nthn Foods	261½	+4½	4.7	15.0
10.80	Nthnbrn Fd	17½	..	1.4	8.8
16.30	Paramount Foods	87½	+2½	7.3	9.9
1.57	Pascoe's	56	..	..	61.3
153.90	Perkins Food	99	-1	5.3	10.7
29.10	Pixel & Gen	88½	-½	2.2	
6.97	Sealey Farm	93	-1	6.9	8.6
14.10	Sims Food	41	+½	..	4.4
2,099.80	Tate & Lyle	470½	+9½	4.0	13.1
12.70	Treat	126	..	5.7	36.6
1,383.60	Unigate	578½	+6	4.5	13.9
15,230.70	Unilever	466¾	-11¼	2.2	21.5
22,177.70	Unilever (NV)	3450	-40½	1.7	16.1
1,126.70	Utd Biscuits	212½	+1½	5.9	16.5
37.40	WT Foods	46½	+½	4.1	17.6
3.78	Yorkshire Food	8½	..	..	

HEALTHCARE

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
22.10	Assoc Nursg	135	..	3.4	16.8
178.60	Bespak	703	-3½	2.2	23.9
429.30	Biocompatibles Intl	580	+17½		
251.00	Care First	158½	-2½	3.2	
62.20	Care UK	135½	+1½	1.0	18.3
91.10	Celsis	91½	-1½		
133.20	Community Hl	380½	-1	3.7	15.4
53.60	CrestaCare	28½	-½	4.2	13.6
1.42	Enviromed	5½	-½		
13.20	Ferraris Group	116½	-3½	3.5	10.7
64.30	Huntingt Tec	131	-8	2.9	18.5
37.80	Innovative Tech	102½	-16½		
20.30	Intercare Gp	71½	..	6.3	11.3
58.10	Isotron	445	+20	1.8	17.5
529.60	Lex Intl	153½	+6	2.2	20.5
125.60	Nestor Hlth	163½	+3½	2.8	21.4
1,944.50	Nycomed Amsh	2015	-92½	1.0	45.1
0.43	Premier Health#	5½			
181.30	Scholl	274	+2½	3.6	17.2
264.50	Seton Health	476½	+21½	2.4	18.5
138.50	Shield Diag	697½	-10		
1,907.90	Smith & Neph	171½	+¼	4.1	16.3
15.50	Tamaris	2	-¼	5.2	13.6
572.90	UniChem	319	-31	3.6	24.6
220.20	West Hithcare	343½	-30	2.4	20.2

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
36.90	Airsprung	154½	-10	5.2	9.8
95.70	Alba	198	-11	3.8	13.2
7.69	Armour	30½	..	8.1	18.8
10.20	BLP Group	154	-5	4.9	5.8
3.92	Bliston Btteas	44	..	4.3	28.2
25.10	Black Arrow	100½	+5½	5.4	8.2
209.00	Black (Peter)	372½	+8	2.1	18.9
70.90	Cornwell Prr 5p	167½	..	2.2	14.1
3.98	Creighton	30			
12.10	Dalkeith	11½	-¼	7.8	
48.30	Denby Group	142½	-7	3.7	10.9
48.50	Eclipse Blinds	118	-5½	3.4	11.3
4.57	Elbief	36	..	4.2	6.7
18.20	Gasked	371½	+19	1.9	12.0
187.10	MFP Ind	280	-2½	2.2	12.4
14.20	Jourdan (T)▼	47½	..	3.9	
53.60	Kenwood App	116½	..	3.5	46.4
10.10	Lionhead	11½	..	1.2	24.1
319.60	McBride	182½	+8	4.8	14.7
35.70	Mayborn	152½	-5	6.6	8.2
37.50	Osborne & Little	695	+7½	4.4	11.6
107.10	Paterson Zoch	438	..	4.9	10.3
86.80	Paterson Zch 'A'	377½	-1½	5.7	8.8
21.20	Pifco	304	-1	3.7	11.3
13.80	Pifco 'A' Vtg	200	..	3.8	11.1
3,512.40	Reckitt Colm	863	+29	3.0	15.7
94.30	Relyon	432½	..	3.3	16.8
119.80	Royal Doulton	217	+4½	5.6	12.4
132.30	Silentnight	282½	-2½	4.6	12.3
8.45	Stoddard	14½	-¼	6.6	31.2
86.70	Stoves	261½	..	2.8	18.8
23.90	Swallowfield	213½	-7	4.4	11.4
10.20	Toothbrsms	156½	..	9.7	9.3
5.34	Victona	78½	..	4.0	10.3
53.30	Walker Greenbk	44½	-½	10.4	9.3
516.80	Wilford Widgett	71	+3	2.3	19.3
3.90	Wood (Arthur)	195	-40	4.5	13.3

INSURANCE

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,814.00	Am Gen	3212½	+28½	2.6	
137.90	Angerstein	111½	..	11.4	8.9
49.10	Bradstock	78½	..	10.5	11.3
1,943.80	Britannic	1002½	-7½	4.1	14.3
106.30	CLM Insce	122½	+1	11.1	9.6
5,590.90	Com Union	815	+34	4.4	12.5
251.20	Cox Insce	233	-½	1.6	17.2
167.60	Dom & Genl	490	-5	2.4	19.4
113.80	FBD IE	277½	-1½	3.3	8.9
42.60	Frst Under	134½	+1	10.6	10.6
4,670.60	Gen Accident	963	-55	4.6	8.4
2,607.80	GRE	285	-38	4.3	4.1
231.50	Hibernian IE	431¼	+11½	2.6	19.8
226.00	Hiscox	182	-4½	2.1	30.9
33.80	Hiscox Select	112½	-1	10.0	9.3
501.40	Independent	1090	+67½	1.6	11.6
958.90	Irish Life	306½	+1½	4.5	9.9
286.40	Jardine Lyd Th	152½	+3	8.8	12.7
35.90	Kiln Capital	105½	+1	3.3	35.6
99.90	Lambert Fen	112½	-2½	9.6	7.8
6,322.60	Legal & Genl	505	-33	2.9	13.0
3,839.00	Liberty Life	1490¼	+62½	2.6	
370.70	Lindt	131	-2	5.7	8.2
626.60	London & Man	509	-1	5.1	14.2
6,514.00	Marsh McLn	4418¾	-18¾	2.7	
42.30	Mostland	105	+½	13.9	7.4
51.90	New London Cap	86½	..	8.7	12.7
7,824.00	Norwich Union	338	-17	3.7	18.6
45.20	Octavian	85½	+4	6.6	
29.30	Orion	90	+11½	8.0	53.2
22.20	Premium Trust	112	..	4.5	26.2
12,370.80	Prudential	638	-46½	3.3	14.8
5.15	PWS	16½	-½	4.9	7.1
8,197.50	Royal & Sun All	533	+1	4.6	18.2
606.70	St James Place	149½	-4½	1.3	22.4
683.10	Sedgwick	123½	..	6.0	10.1
16.20	Steel Burrill	29½	+1	6.4	
3,065.60	Sun Life & P	378	-27	3.5	21.7
57.30	Syndicate Cap	106	..	10.6	10.3
1,785.00	Utd Assurance	516½	-9½	4.7	18.2
117.30	Wellington	132	..	4.4	9.0
522.30	Willis Corroon	123½	+1½	6.7	14.1
5.93	Windsor	11½	+¼	6.4	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2,901.70	3i	488½	-2½	2.5	28.3
50.50	Aberdn New Dawn	117	-6½	1.6	47.5
177.60	Aberforth Splt	215	-3½	3.4	28.2
15.20	Aberforth Sm Wts	119	-2½		
30.20	Abtrust Emrg	80½	-1	0.6	
49.10	Abtrust High Inc	87	..	9.8	
1,305.10	Alliance	2391	-11½	3.0	40.0
645.20	Anglo & O'seas	565	-3	2.1	58.9
10.20	Aust Opps	72½	..	0.4	
17.80	Battle Gilford SN	55½	-4		
369.10	Bankers	238	-3	2.6	41.2
188.40	Baring Em Eu	85½	-4½		
227.80	Baring Tribne	444	+3½	2.3	49.4
23.20	Br Assets	109½	..	5.8	20.2
203.60	Br Empire Sec	107½	-2	1.3	57.6
36.70	Brazilian	58½	+¼		
198.40	Brunner	310	-1½	3.1	44.4
56.30	BZW Conv	110	..	8.9	
97.50	Cairngorm Dev	97½	-1		
164.60	Candover	725	-2	2.6	41.0
126.80	Contl Euro Grth	58½	-1½		
468.20	City Of Lon	224½	-3½	3.5	31.2
56.00	Conti Asset	290½	-½	1.6	78.1
5.48	Dawe Inv Inc	74	+½	13.9	9.5
76.30	Derby Cap	497½			
15.40	Derby Inc	130½	..	..	5.7
274.60	Dunedin Inc G	171½	+¼	4.2	26.6
56.60	Dunedin Smlr	337	-1	3.3	35.3
288.40	Dundee Wrds	172	-2½	1.4	69.8
90.30	EMC	217½	-10½	0.3	
148.00	Edn Dragon	54½	-1		
20.80	Edinburgh Inca	25½			
1,173.70	Edinburgh IT	383½	-½	3.4	37.8
32.10	Edn Japan	93½	+2	..	..
361.60	Edn US Tst	432	..	1.6	73.9
854.20	Electra Inv	493½	+½	2.3	46.2
252.10	Eng & Scot	154	-3½	2.4	40.1
81.60	European Asset	387½	-1	1.3	
64.40	Fidelity Asian Val	62½	-¼		
155.00	Fidelity Euro Val	271½	-½	0.2	
29.50	Fidelity Jap Val	28	-½		
50.60	Fidelity Spec Val	137½	..	1.2	68.7
24.50	Finsbury 'A'	225	-3	2.2	61.3
24.50	Finsbury Grwth	182	-3½	2.7	45.4
144.30	Five Arr Chile	158	-3	1.5	
0.20	Five Arr Wts	11½			
378.30	Fleming Amer	543½	-1	0.6	
94.10	Fleming Asian	58½	-½		
2.99	Fleming Asian Wts	9¾	-½		
37.20	Fleming Chinese	61½	-2½		
2.70	Fleming Ch Wrt	22½	-2		
229.20	Fleming Claver	380½	+8½	2.1	51.0
286.00	Fleming Contl	438	-3	1.1	
105.50	Fleming Em Mkts	108	-2	0.5	
104.60	Fleming Enlp	261½	-2½	2.5	38.9
40.00	Fleming Fledg	388½	-4	0.3	
87.20	Fleming Inc Capt	94½	-½	7.5	17.9
88.50	Fleming Ing Inc	107½	+½	11.3	10.9
90.70	Fleming Ing Cap	225½	-1		
40.10	Fleming Indian	43½	-½		
1.51	Fleming In Wts	8	-½		
282.40	Fleming Japan	144½	+1½		
536.80	Fleming Merc	371½	-3	3.0	33.8
31.50	Fleming Nat Res	78½	-3½	0.9	
453.50	Fleming Oseas	349	-3½	1.6	76.3
38.60	Fleming Smlr Cot	144½	+½	3.9	
1,728.90	Foreign & Col	184½	+½	1.7	56.6
43.60	F&C Inc Gwth	100½	..	4.5	27.8
175.80	F&C Eng Mkts	83½	-3½		
164.00	F&C Enterprise	174½	-½	1.7	58.4
210.30	F&C Eurotst	337½	+1½	0.5	
58.80	F&C German	149½	+2½	0.5	
261.40	F&C Pacific	119½	-1½	2.8	54.1
83.20	F&C PEP	141	+1½	4.1	
181.70	F&C Smllr	173½	-2½	1.9	50.7
74.80	F&C US Smlr	148½	-1½		
23.10	Framlig Inc	58	..	11.1	11.0
24.00	Framlin Cap	96½	-3½		
4.30	Fund Dist Cp	123	-2½		
5.61	Fulcrum Cap	31½	-½		
2.25	Fulcrum Inc	20	..	59.4	2.2
16.20	Fulcrum Zero	187½	+½		
135.20	Gartmore Brit	278½			
12.80	Gartmore Eml	281	..	2.2	43.3
86.70	Gartmore Euro	224½	-1	0.8	
39.90	Gartmore Smid	105½	..	12.9	10.6
47.30	Gartmore Smlr Cont	329½	..	2.3	48.5
31.90	Geared Inc Grth	57½	+½	10.8	6.6
31.00	Geared Inc Inc	50	+½	11.1	8.4
41.50	Genl Cons Cap	329	-7½		
38.20	Genl Inc	105½	-1½	12.4	8.9
40.50	Gov Am Sm Cos	108	-6½	0.6	
30.80	Gov Eng Mkts	80½	-1½	0.6	
47.85	Govett Am Smlr	192	-3½		
38.70	Govett High Inc	81	-1	8.6	14.0
362.10	Govett Oriental	108½	-2½	0.8	
357.90	Govett Strategic	364½	-2½	2.6	34.0
1.05	Gresham House	24½	..	1.3	1.5
83.20	GT Inc Growth	117½	-3½	3.5	40.3
98.30	GT Japan	157½	-3	0.6	
22.90	Guin Fl Ex Inc	116	-½	8.3	13.9
22.65	Henderson Am Cp	90½	-½		
8.53	Henderson Am In	113½	..	8.6	14.9
2.12	Henderson Am Wt	28½			
247.70	Hend Elec Gen	274	-1½	1.7	63.7
62.40	Hend Far East	111½	-3½	7.6	15.9
54.60	Hend Gndrtr	451	-3	2.0	84.3
77.30	Hend High Inc	147	-½	5.5	22.7
37.00	Hend Jap Smlr	32	-1½		
398.30	Hend Smh	223½	-2	2.2	53.8
86.70	Hend Strata	498	+1	0.1	
120.20	Hend Tr Pac	80½	-½	0.5	67.5
50.60	Hend Tech	95¼	-2		
114.80	Herald	139½	..	0.7	
22.80	High Income T	101	-2	7.8	12.7
118.10	H Govett Smlr	141	-¾	2.7	50.0
0.89	IBS Est	30	-1		
42.80	IBS UK Smlr	147	-3½	2.5	58.4
420.60	Inv Capt	170	+2½	4.2	25.7
60.70	Int Biotech	95½	-3		
1.88	Int Biotec Wts	25	-1½		
15.80	Int Biotec C	82	-5		
60.50	INVESCO Asia	53½	-2½	1.5	66.0
9.73	INVESCO Blue	77	+1	14.2	8.7
112.50	INVESCO Eng Int	177½	..	0.9	73.7
8.23	INVESCO Jap Dis	29½	-2		
11.50	INVESCO Korea	34½	-5½		
31.40	INVESCO Tokyo	28	-1½		
61.10	JF Fledg Jap	97	-4½		
12.40	J Fry Euro U	116	-½	5.8	25.3
37.70	J Fry UIBS	62	-2	8.3	14.6
	J Fry Util Inc	77	+1½		
42.30	Jupiter Ex Inc	133½	..	8.7	11.2
0.75	Jupiter Ex Incwt	12½			
12.30	Jupiter Gbl Capt	88	-1	11.4	10.8
12.80	Jupiter Gbl Ptd	38½	-1		
34.00	Jupiter Intl Grn	135	-½	3.6	
279.40	Kleinwt Chrt	345	-7½	2.1	51.4
24.50	Klnwrt E Mkt	85	-3½		
50.10	Klnwt End	167	-2		
32.20	Klnwt H Inc	107½	-1	12.9	10.8
264.30	Klnwt O'seas	329½	-2	1.5	63.9
23.30	Klnwt Smlr	176½	-½	2.5	47.2
52.20	Korea-Euro	111½	-35½	1.1	52.1
105.20	Latin American	117	+2½		
239.00	Law Debenture	1030	-19½	3.4	31.2
37.30	Lille Off Opp	118	-½		
30.70	Lloyds Sm Cap	125			
4.60	Lloyds Sm Div	18½	..	28.1	4.6
35.60	Lloyds Sm Ptg	145	+½	3.6	
55.80	Lon St Lawrence	170	-½	4.7	28.4
77.40	Lowland	328	+9	4.4	28.1
76.50	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	765	-2½		
6.85	M&G 2nd Dual In	68½	+½	..	2.2
72.50	M&G Inc Geared	72	+½	10.1	12.7
118.50	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	48½			
58.50	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	23½	-½	..	3.7
213.60	M&G Inc Package	146½	..	4.9	26.1
189.20	M&G Inc Zero Div	76½			
40.40	M&G Rec Cap	30			
67.30	M&G Rec Geared	59½	..	13.8	9.4
30.00	M&G Rec Inc	22½	+1	..	4.0
175.60	M&G Rec Pacge	156½	-½	4.4	29.8
145.10	M&G Rec Zero Div	107½	+½		
37.20	M Conte Euro	157½	..	0.6	
15.70	M Conte Japan	72	+½		
47.10	M Conte Pac	114½	+½	1.0	78.3
149.90	Majedie	285½	-½	3.1	
342.20	Merchants	334½	+1	5.1	24.5
657.80	Mercury Euro Pvt	129½	+1½	2.2	37.2
54.60	Mercury Eur Wt	47½	+½		
263.10	Mercury World	61¼	-2½	2.3	51.8
0.64	Mercury Wld Wts	0½			
523.80	Monks Inv Tst	675	+3½	1.8	54.4
64.90	Morg Gren Inc	175½	+½	4.9	24.6
3.48	Morg Wts	71½			
48.50	Morg Lat Amer	75½	+1½	0.5	
3.74	Morg Wts	24½			
28.40	Murray Ent	117½	-½	3.4	
0.70	Murray Ent Wts	14½			
32.80	Murray Emg Eco	69½	-½	1.2	
1.24	Murray Em Ec Wt	9¼	+½		
359.00	Murray Income	418	+2	4.3	29.8
521.70	Murray Intl	434	+½	3.8	30.1
13.10	Murray S/C DP	205½			
13.60	Murray S/C Cap	243½	-4		
4.92	Murray S/C Inc	61½	..	24.4	4.9
2.14	Murray S/C Uts	4125	+10	3.7	..
198.70	Murray Smaltt	359	+8	2.1	45.8
98.80	Murray Vent	400	..	4.7	24.2
1.99	Newmond	5½			
160.80	O'seas Inv Tst	422	+6½	1.2	
4.88	O'seas Wts	228	+3½		
67.60	Pacific Assets	52	-½	1.0	76.4
27.80	Perpetual Euro	77½	-½	0.7	
203.10	Perp Inc Gth	117	..	4.2	35.0
11.90	Perpetual Jap	32½	-1½		
45.40	Perpt UK Sm Co	324½	..	3.7	29.0
32.60	Personal Assets	£163	+100	1.8	
68.00	Pacific Inc	130	..	4.0	27.9
483.80	RIT Cap Ptnr	267	-2	0.8	78.8
6.30	Robeco	830	-3½	2.0	
34.70	Rolinco	545½	-3½	1.0	
72.10	Schrd Asia Pac	51½	+½	0.5	
61.50	Schrd Eng Cal	69½	-½		
112.20	Schrod Inc Gwth	141	..	4.1	25.3
64.10	Schrd Jap Gwth	51¼	-1		
*8.70	Schrd Resrv	148½	-21½		
12.00	Schrod Split Cap	42½	-1½		
46.10	Schrod Split Inc	116½	-½	8.0	14.3
57.50	Schrod Split Zero	152½	+½		
308.80	Schrod UK Gwth	138½	-1	3.0	38.8
148.80	Schrod Vent Inft	154	+5	1.4	
877.10	Scot Inv	389½	..	2.6	
414.20	Scot American	185¼	+2	3.6	37.1
37.80	Scot Asian	135	-4½		
722.30	Scot Eastern	114	-1	2.1	45.2
1,138.90	Scot Mort	315½	+½	2.1	48.3
158.10	Scot Nat Tst	99	+½	10.4	10.4
86.50	Scot Value	117	-½	2.2	24.3
408.30	Second Alliance	2118	-9	3.0	38.6
350.70	Secs Tst of Scott	109½	-1½	4.3	30.5
29.30	Shires Smlr	150½	-½	5.1	24.2
84.60	Smaller Cos	131½	-1½	3.1	39.4
121.60	St Andrew Inv	353½	-1	3.4	36.7
207.80	Temple Bar	465	+1	4.4	28.5
256.70	Throgmorton	84½	-1	3.4	40.4
531.80	Templeton Eng Mkt	113	-6½	1.2	66.0
257.80	TR Euro Growth	170½	-2½	0.7	
207.10	TR Property	44	+½	3.0	39.6
45.50	TR Tech Inv	385½	-9½	3.2	30.8
31.20	Turkey Trust	315½	-6	1.4	69.8
147.50	Undervalued Ast	139½	-3½	2.1	81.6
71.90	Value Inc Tst	158	+1	3.7	32.9
98.20	Value Real	100	-½	1.1	30.2
11.60	Voyageur Er Smd	115	..	0.7	..
32.00	Warrants & Val	40	-½		
18.10	Wigmore	89	+½	1.1	
1,157.80	Witan	308½	-½	2.7	43.4
18.60	Yeoman Inc	75½	..	30.1	4.4

LEISURE & HOTELS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
10.40	AB Leis	31½	-½	20.2	3.1
1,887.40	Airtours	1182½	+43½	1.8	21.4
38.20	Ald Leis	33	-1	3.8	10.7
88.50	Arcadian	69	+½	2.5	25.0
38.10	Arena Leis	28½			
9.73	BS Group	147½	..	5.5	..
22.00	Baldwin	115	-5	4.3	16.1
38.90	Bluebird Toys	92½	-7½	12.2	6.9
155.80	Bussey Halls	800	+70	1.5	30.0
29.60	Bundone	28½	-½	8.8	7.3
145.90	Capital Corpn	143½	+7	7.1	16.2
24.90	Character Grp	119	-2½	3.9	8.9
23.70	Chvdon	52½	..	6.0	10.8
63.80	Clubhaus	80½	-3	..	21.9
84.70	Eastcamp	236½	-2½	3.8	12.6
812.00	Euro Disney	88	..	..	
43.80	Euro Leisure	123½	..	4.1	5.2
200.00	First Choice	84	+1	3.4	
431.60	First Leisure	262½	+12	4.1	14.4
27.20	Friendly Hotels	124	-6	5.7	18.4
7,546.80	Granada	847	-12	2.2	17.4
20.80	Hi-Tec Sports	41	+½	5.7	9.2
14.50	Hornby	171	+2½	4.8	8.2
76.80	Hazlock	320	-7½	4.4	12.5
274.60	Jarvis Hotels	158	+7	3.4	9.9
158.70	Jurys Hotel	358½	-8½	2.1	16.0
48.90	Kunick	22	..	4.3	13.5
3,176.90	Ladbroke	288	-24	3.0	24.3
385.60	London Clubs	262½	-7½	3.9	16.4
108.10	Macdonald Hls	184½	-1	3.2	13.7
394.30	Man Utd	607½	-6½	1.3	20.4
291.90	Mandarin Orntl	41½	-7	9.0	7.9
563.70	Millennium & Cop	389	-8½	2.2	16.2
16.20	Millwall Hldgs	1½			
137.50	Newcastle Utd	95	-1½	2.1	14.0
193.60	Nottfersalt	349½	-9½	2.1	27.2
8.50	Peters Leisure	78½	..	11.7	3.8
28.50	Queensborough	24	+1	2.1	10.3
45.40	Queens Moat	11½	..	..	3.3
2,612.00	Rank Grp	345½	-1½	6.2	21.4
37.80	Ryan Hotels IE	51½	..	4.2	10.8
350.40	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1225	-2½	1.8	..
25.20	Sheffield United	50½	-3		
49.20	Sinclair (Wm)	217½	-1	5.1	11.5
21.90	Southampton	80½	-2	1.6	
780.50	Stakis	99½	+2½	2.8	15.9
277.40	Stanley Leisure	251	+7½	2.0	20.5
4.94	Tandem	5½	-½	..	63.3
1,300.10	Tussauds	346	..	1.0	32.8
972.20	Thistle Hotels	157½	+2	2.9	14.6
80.10	Tottenham Hot	79½	..	1.6	10.9
157.90	Vardon	120	+11	2.3	14.2
154.80	Wembley	280	-1½	1.3	65.5
8.27	Zetters Gp	116½	..	10.7	8.0

MEDIA

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
252.70	Abbott Mead	336	-7½	2.2	26.2
29.80	Adscene	137½	-7	7.7	14.9
529.80	Aegis Gp	63¾	..	1.0	17.8
15.70	Aspen Gp	101½	-2½	7.3	..
82.70	Atlantic Telecom	163½	+34		
5.39	BBB Design	85	+3½		
35.50	Barbour Index	205	-5	8.1	22.8
3.14	Bindale	2¼			
4.97	Black (A&C)	320	..	5.5	15.3
32.50	Border TV	319	-1	2.7	19.0
68.50	Bristol	420	+5	4.8	14.2
31.00	Brit Allcraft	139½	..	1.7	19.7
7,568.00	BSkyB	440	+15	1.7	27.2
100.20	CIA Gp	184½	+1	1.8	31.5
348.60	Capital Radio	473	+5	3.6	14.7
2,752.70	Carlton Comm	453½	-24½	3.2	13.5
177.30	Chrysalis	578	+7½	0.6	
6.76	City of Lon	84½	-1	8.7	10.7
530.30	Cordiant	119½	+2½	1.0	19.7
110.60	Creative Pub	137	..	6.4	13.9
83.80	Daily Mail	1875	+18½	1.5	32.2
1,783.20	Daily Mail 'A'	1784½	+28½	1.5	30.6
266.30	Dialog	177	-3		
169.60	Dorling Kindt	239	+8½	2.4	39.6
1,825.80	EMAP	874	-22½	2.9	20.4
3,505.60	EMI	448	-59	3.7	61.1
8,569.30	Elsevier	986½	+43½	2.5	23.2
359.40	Euromoney Pb	1647½	-72½	3.9	17.8
17.90	Fitch	47	-½	1.7	11.6
883.70	Flextech	562½	-2½	..	..
132.40	GGT Group	190	+½	4.1	
189.50	GWR Gp	174	-1	2.0	28.4
63.50	Bushouse Grant	355	-19	2.4	13.6
13.10	Goodhead	32½	-1½	1.5	18.8
41.80	HIT Ent	230	..	0.2	43.1
17.80	Haynes Pub	365	-2½	5.0	11.8
8.12	Highbury Hse	9	+½		
72.70	Hodder H'line	206	..	4.1	14.1
24.20	Home Counts	240	..	3.0	23.3
159.80	IBC	404½	-1	3.0	14.1
38.40	Incepta	21	-¼	..	12.6
847.70	Independent	342½	+20	2.4	23.5
5.68	Infocorporal	123½	..	4.8	9.1
421.80	Johnston Press	210½	+2	1.8	18.3
17.50	Lopex	52½	..	3.5	8.7
118.30	Maiden	303½	..	2.3	18.6
23.50	MediaKey	31	-1½	4.3	12.6
102.00	Metal Bulletin	1020	..	2.6	28.1
291.00	Midland Ind	211	..	2.7	21.9
842.30	Miller Gp	189½	-3½	3.1	12.8
308.50	More Grp	741½	-2	2.6	18.1
6,195.40	News Corp	317½	+11½	8.4	13.8
4,436.70	News Corp Prf	289½	+7	1.1	
3.59	On Demand Inf	8½	..		
5.44	Osprey Comms	18½	-½	..	29.8
4,743.80	Pearson	825	-5	2.8	37.3
15.80	Phonelink	33	-7½		
102.60	Portsmth Sundt	655	-2½	2.2	17.5
18.70	Quartz	101½	-3½	3.9	4.8
7,187.70	Reed Intl	620½	+22	2.9	22.4
11,309.20	Reuters	698	-35	2.3	22.2
445.80	Scot Med	689	-2½	3.6	17.4
98.10	Scot Radio	356½	-4	2.9	17.3
93.60	Shandwick	40	-½	4.5	7.2
5.25	Sleepy Kids	17½	+3	0.8	
20.20	Southnews	439	-12½	2.4	15.6
9.85	Sterling Pub	20½	+1½	..	4.8
186.90	Taylor Nelson	74½	+1	1.6	25.4
53.00	Television Cp	204	..	2.0	15.2
8,986.70	Thomson Corp	1509½	+19½	3.0	31.7
654.40	Trinity Intl	472½	+6	3.2	16.4
131.10	Ulster TV	241½	-7½	2.6	24.0
3,697.70	United News	747	-8	4.1	
75.50	VCI	193½	..	8.1	10.0
3.76	VTR	69½	+7	6.9	
146.50	Visual Action	282½	+6½	2.0	25.4
1,954.90	WPP	285½	-4	0.8	17.9
79.10	Wilmington	111	-3	1.4	24.6

MINING

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
857.00	Ang Am Coal	3140¾	-43¾	5.1	7.8
5,668.30	Ang Am	2425	+168¾	3.5	..
573.70	Ang Am Gold	2375	-75	6.8	..
1,178.80	Anglo Am Plat	925	+28¾	2.1	..
15.28	Anglo Pac Res	17½			
94.70	Arcon Intl	33			
484.50	Ashanti	436¼	-79¾	4.1	11.7
153.60	Ashton	54½	-2½	10.3	
41.90	Avocet	117¼	-17¼		
169.50	Beatrix	180¾	-114¾	8.5	9.6
3,121.50	Billiton	146	-24½	4.1	15.4
3.31	Bisichi	31½	..	3.2	35.4
79.80	Bougainville	30	-¼		
260.70	Central Pacific	260	-13¾		
1.79	Cons Murchison	28¾	-2		
4,786.10	De Beers	1259¾	-12½	4.7	12.6
823.80	Driefontein	494¾	+16	4.5	
6.83	Durban	92¼	-3½		
30.30	E Rand Gold	58½	-11¼	29.2	3.4
17.10	E Rand Prop	11¼	-3¾		
154.70	Elandsrand	129¾	-10¼	12.6	
783.40	Eng China Clt	258	-13	6.1	19.7
39.70	Essntix	103¾	+¼	15.2	2.5
271.90	FS Cons	226½	-47¾	18.8	5.9
6.25	FS Dev	28	-1¼		
820.40	GFSA	845¾	+18¾	3.3	
308.00	Gencor	90¼	-4½	4.1	5.9
12.20	Gold Fields Prop	119¾	-2	6.6	10.1
16.70	Greenwich R 'A'	16	+¼		
28.20	Gwelia Cons	33¼	-2½	2.4	6.9
41.80	Harmony	144	-20¾		
342.50	Impala Plat	540¾	-12½	1.6	
18.10	Kenmare Res	12½	..		
25.90	Kidston	20½	-12½		
296.20	Kloof	213¾	-17	6.3	
6.49	Metallurma	7¾	..	..	
705.20	MIM	43	-1½	2.4	
2,412.80	Minorco	1069¾	+34½	3.6	10.1
9.57	Moorch	16½	-5		
6.21	Montague	85	-2	5.0	18.2
524.30	Normandy	51¼	-3	4.8	10.5
1,094.40	North	152½	-3½	3.5	20.6
4.64	Petaling Tin	23	-27	2.2	
183.19	RGC	87¼	+½	4.7	4.4
233.80	RJB	160	+10	17.2	11.9
14.80	Rockwood	35	-½	11.8	8.1
50.70	Randfontein	81¼	-7¼	7.5	19.1
7,664.80	Rio Tinto	715	-48	4.7	14.2
4,200.80	Rio Tinto Ltd	653¾	-17	4.3	15.3
17.00	St Barbara	8	-2¼		
15.80	St Helena	164¾	-28¾	12.6	
142.30	Sons Gwalia	139	-8¼	7.3	9.8
362.40	Silver Pacific	101¼	-18¾		
215.10	Southvaal	828¼	-37½	12.4	8.1
408.80	Vaal Reefs	2137½	-225	10.1	
2,138.70	WMC	190¼	-10¾	3.6	16.2
43.00	Wankie Col Z	28¼	+1½	3.8	10.1
3.29	Water Hall	44½	+1		
93.70	Wills Blake	446	-1	4.5	15.7
266.80	Western Deep	962¾	-190¾	8.3	
172.30	Zambia Copper	140½	-¼		

OIL & GAS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
242.50	Abbot Group	171	-3	1.5	27.5
8.44	Alliance Res	29½	+1½		
33.90	Aran Oil & Gas	75¼	-5¾		
5.84	Aviva Pet	18½	-3		
1,048.00	Br Borneo	443½	-6	8.8	57.3
11,121.40	BG	284	+5	3.5	20.3
40,699.80	Br Petroleum	810	-67¼	3.3	18.2
24.40	Bula Resources	1¼	+		
2,116.60	Burmah Castrl	997	+12	5.8	14.0
798.90	Cairn Energy	470½	-12½		
3,815.00	Centrica	88	-5		
27.70	Copley Res	13½	-¼		
159.80	Dana Pet	24½			
252.50	Dragon Oil	73½	+1½		
10.30	Edic Oil & Gs	28½	-½	1.2	19.0
51.40	Emerald Energy	6	+¼		
2,902.50	Enterprise	584	+7	3.7	21.5
176.40	Fortune	13½	-¼	..	49.8
350.00	Hardy Oil	280	-14½	0.6	60.6
15.20	Int Tool & Sup	8¼	+¼		
59.50	JKX Oil & Gas	51	..	..	
143.80	KBC Adv Tech	312½	-11	1.3	31.7
2,540.80	LASMO	282	-21¼	8.8	70.6
2.87	Lotenx Units	40½	..	22.4	
601.90	Monument	86	-4	..	44.9
7,804.50	Norsk Hydro	3069½	-100	1.9	9.6
359.20	Oil Search	117½	+3½		
74.30	Perenco	37½	-2		
561.90	Premier	54½	-1½	1.3	10.6
33.10	Ptflenscleff Rs	63	..	..	40.3
406.50	Ranger	412¾	-42¾	4.6	7.5
67,083.30	Royal Dtch Fl	3128¾	-18¾	2.7	21.5
23,945.90	Schlumberger	4918¾	-140¾	0.9	
49,074.30	Shell	403	-47¼	3.9	20.8
191.00	SOCO Intl	387	-5½		
14,752.90	Total	6115¾	-582½	2.6	21.5
44.40	XCL	23¼	-4		

OTHER FINANCIAL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
143.20	Aberdeen Asset	98	..	4.5	19.8
2,519.20	Amvescap	428	+7	1.5	17.2
23.40	BWD	119¼	+4½	6.5	13.0
3.22	Berry Bch Nif	49½	..	7.7	12.0
178.50	Bisitec Inv	300½			
53.60	Brewin Dolphin	232	..	4.6	12.9
576.50	Caledonia	680	+31	3.5	18.2
75.00	Camellia	3000	..	1.4	12.7
539.20	Cattles	389	+10	2.8	21.3
87.90	Charles Taylor	232½	..	2.3	
11.10	Cotelia	47	-1½	2.7	18.3
601.30	Close Bros	492½	+2½	3.0	16.5
132.30	EFM	479½	..	6.5	17.0
45.80	Exco	37	-2½	12.2	14.4
23.30	Fishes Insf	19	-¼	3.6	12.1
225.20	Gerrard	511	-5½	6.4	14.0
449.40	Hambros	252½	-4½	3.7	24.2
308.00	Henderson	1480	-2½	4.1	20.3
64.70	Hitachi Credt	152½	..	3.5	14.0
3.19	Investment Co.	110	..	3.4	
62.80	Ivory Sime	187	..	5.7	14.9
1,682.00	Jardine Strat	161¼	-11¼	5.3	8.2
15.60	Johnson Fry	102½	+17½	4.9	10.5
33.40	Leopold J	630	..	4.0	25.7
1,428.00	Liberty Intl	486	+4½	4.2	28.2
392.70	Lon Forfaiting	385½	-1½	4.2	12.0
130.30	London Pacific	185½	-3½	9.3	5.7
132.50	Lon Scot Bk	108	+2	3.6	18.5
598.60	Man ED & F	228½	-5	6.1	9.0
1,071.10	M & G	1430	+42½	3.6	22.7
3,079.90	MAM	1093	+10	3.6	26.5
178.30	Paragon	204	+24	1.7	
734.60	Perpetual	2605	+75	3.0	17.3
1,905.80	Provident	713½	+27½	3.1	22.7
110.20	Rathbone Brs	384	-2	4.1	19.6
27.10	Rea Brothers	55	..	2.2	19.3
150.70	Roland Tst	49½	..	3.6	11.5
15.30	SEC Group	84½	-2	7.4	6.0
38.10	S & U	323	-1	7.2	8.5
2,576.10	Schroders	1705	-211	1.5	17.6
753.80	Schroders N/V	1675	-75	1.6	17.3
93.80	Sanam Tst	617½	-2½	4.3	13.5
270.30	Singer & Fried	138	+3½	4.5	10.8
6.78	Trinity Law	44	-½		
3.55	Trio Hldgs	4½	+1½		
21.70	Unisn	81½			
116.10	Versailles Grp	48	-½	1.2	27.7
32.20	Wilsdon	357½	+10	4.8	16.8

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
804.70	Brit Biotech	122	+16		
118.40	Cantab Pharms	717½	-7½		
219.90	Celltech	387½	-11½		
275.80	Chiroscience	257½	-1½		
294.80	Cortecs	194½	-6½		
46,438.00	Glaxo Well	1300	-56	3.2	26.7
194.30	ML Laboratories	134	-6	..	24.6
715.80	Medeva	201	-4½	2.9	37.6
108.60	Peptide Therp	289½	-8		
112.60	Powderject	190½			
21.40	Proteus Intl	38½			
9.97	Ransom (Wm)	63½	+3½	5.0	13.2
303.80	Scotia	387½	+12½		
359.70	Shire Pharms	273½	-3½		
185.60	SkyePharma	51			
30,431.50	SmithKline	550	-42	1.9	27.4
49.80	Thamp Ant Inc	232½	-8½		
105.40	Vanguard	425	-5		
40.50	Xenova	175	+8½		
17,938.10	Zeneca	1890	+87	2.4	25.2

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
18.30	AG Holdings	87	..	9.0	11.3
164.30	API	582½	..	2.5	17.7
17.20	App Holo	65	+4		
1,401.30	Arjo Wiggins	170	-4½	5.1	11.5
44.00	Bath Press	20½	-½	3.1	8.9
172.30	Bemrose	404½	+1	4.8	11.7
108.80	Blagden	181	-2½	2.2	9.8
1,005.40	Bowater Inc	2671¼	-6¼		
184.60	Bowthorpe Intl	257½	-5	1.5	17.8
165.80	Br Polythene	459	-1	5.0	10.9
2.82	Br Thornton	17½	+6		
192.50	Bullen Grp	188½	+41	3.1	15.6
1,024.70	Bunzl	227	-10½	3.3	14.0
45.30	Capital Indst	133½	-9	5.5	11.0
21.30	Cropper (James)	256½	-½	2.3	9.2
602.20	De La Rue	481	-7½	7.5	10.5
58.70	Dolphin Pack	255	+½	3.7	14.7
15.10	Fairway Group	37½	..	13.3	11.6
15.10	Ferguson Intl	136	-4	12.2	10.3
42.10	Flexlux	150½	+2	3.2	10.4
41.30	Inveresk	78½	+1	8.2	8.1
100.10	Jarvis Porter	213½	-½	4.4	12.4
265.50	Low & Bonar	287½	-1	6.5	8.6
103.50	MY Holdings	76½	..	4.5	..
233.80	Macfarlane	184½	+1	2.8	16.6
86.80	Photobition	787½	+25	1.1	30.4
76.70	Plysu	150½	+6	6.1	12.7
30.20	Porter Chadburn	25	+½	4.0	8.0
1,480.80	REXAM	289½	-3½	5.9	19.4
532.40	St Ives Grp	524½	-16	2.8	16.1
533.80	Sappi	335½	-19½	2.8	
2.41	Sead	3½			
64.90	Shiloh	94½	-½	3.0	25.6
636.40	Smith David	199½	-½	3.0	8.6
1,923.50	Smurfit (Jeff)	174½	+5½	2.6	16.1
3.30	Sonic	165	-3½	2.4	17.9
59.50	Tinsley Robor	142½	+6	2.6	15.8
22.20	Waco	28	..	13.4	..
280.10	Waddington	265	-10½	5.1	11.5
148.70	Watmough	213½	-9½	6.1	11.8
87.70	Wyndeham	231½	-3½	2.9	14.1

PROPERTY

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
81.60	Allied Lon	88	+5	5.7	18.6
132.80	Arda	168½	-½	2.1	28.6
10.60	Ashquay Grp	28½			
65.20	Ashtenne Hldgs	135	-½	4.8	14.5
288.60	Beechcroft	230½	..	1.6	37.3
229.70	Bilton	261	-1	5.1	19.5
74.40	Bisby	161½	..	7.0	10.6
2.96	Bolton Gp	5			
35.90	Boxxer Est	51½	..	2.9	62.3
417.80	Bradford	286	-3	3.9	19.7
3,070.20	Br Land	645	-15	1.7	41.9
516.20	Brixton	220½	-4	5.2	19.0
448.10	Burford	105½	+½	2.6	36.0
147.80	CLS Hldgs	132	..	5.3	14.9
201.30	Cap & Regnl	283½	-6½	1.4	22.4
1,691.10	Cap Shop Ctrs	414½	-6½	2.6	32.4
9.40	Cardiff Prop	288½	..	1.4	37.5
24.90	Carlisle	8½	..	..	38.4
35.80	Cathay Intl	12½	..	..	58.6
840.70	Chelsfield	352½	..	1.1	52.9
141.40	Chesterfield	584	-8½	2.8	
21.10	Chesterton Intl	25	-3	5.0	
7.56	City Site Ests	45	..	..	8.4
23.00	Cleveland Tst	111	-2½	7.0	13.5
31.10	CRIC Props	74½	..	5.2	7.4
32.30	Compco	180½	-1	2.6	27.7
257.50	Daejan	1580	..	3.0	16.5
7.90	Dares Estates	18	-1	..	8.9
36.90	Debenham Twn	84½	-4	3.6	12.6
16.40	Delancey Ests	72½	-1	2.7	19.9
37.90	Denecos	202½	..	2.8	11.7
238.40	Derwent Hldgs	565	-½	1.4	35.1
81.90	Development Sec	382½	..	1.2	17.4
35.40	Dwyer	69	..	2.9	13.2
82.60	Edge Properties	174	-2½	..	18.6
24.90	Estates Agency	415	..	5.0	28.7
21.40	Estates Gen	75½	..	1.2	9.4
201.80	Evans Of Leeds	151	-½	2.9	17.5
32.40	Five Oaks	31½	-½	3.6	10.6
2.70	Fletcher King	31	-½	8.0	13.2
7.74	Folkes Group	68½	-2	3.6	5.0
15.10	Folkes Group nvt	68½	-1	3.6	5.0
268.50	Frogmore	478½	+2	5.2	14.6
14.20	Golden Land Inv	20			
75.90	Grainger	315	-25	2.8	
939.00	Gt Portland	249	+1	4.5	27.4
192.20	Grantchester	161½	-2	0.9	48.5
230.90	Greycoat	208	+5	0.9	28.9
382.10	Hambro Ctyw	111	-4	2.8	7.3
1,321.40	Hammerson	462½	-16	3.1	28.8
31.40	Hampton Trust	28½	-2½		
98.90	Helical Bar	550½	+7	2.4	15.0
78.20	Hemingway	47½	-½	1.5	15.9
12.50	High-Point	58½	+5		
3,502.90	HK Land	131	-5½	5.4	14.1
33.80	Jermyn▼	213½	..	3.3	47.1
7.24	Kendell	0½			
18.80	LSH	100	-1½	2.0	7.3
29.60	Lands Inv	114	-4½	5.2	25.8
5,017.20	Land Sec	963	-16	3.6	27.5
25.90	Lon & Assoc	34½	-1½	8.0	13.9
4.65	Lon & Metro	8½	+¼		
254.70	Lon Merch Sec	114	..	5.8	13.5
2,342.70	MEPC	535	-4½	4.7	25.4
53.20	MWB Group	98	-½	3.2	
53.50	McKay Secs	123	..	4.3	19.6
10.60	Marylebone Mle	85½	..	4.3	31.7
86.20	Milner Est	283½	-4	3.3	16.0
184.90	Minerva	183	+3½	1.1	
38.10	Moorfield Est	26½	-½	2.4	
73.40	Mountview	1500	+106½	3.3	11.1
154.70	Muckiow (A&J)	158½	-½	5.5	18.5
2.17	OEM	39½	..	..	1.9
3.60	OHB	54½	+2		
17.20	Olives Prop	28	-1½	2.2	13.3
474.90	Peel	617½	-25	1.6	
457.20	Pillar Prop	280½	+9	2.3	40.5
15.80	Premier Land	19½			
137.80	Quintain	157½	+2	2.8	26.3
44.50	Raglan	25½	-½	5.8	10.2
51.40	Regalian	29½	-½	4.8	14.4
28.50	Rugby Est	158½	..	1.9	21.8
85.60	St Modwen Prp	71½	..	4.5	9.1
113.00	Savills Grdn (J)	59½	-½	6.3	22.2
58.30	Savills	109	-3	4.0	9.2
126.80	Scot Mett	97	-1	3.9	17.5
216.10	Shaftesbury	201	..	1.2	40.6
1,360.70	Slough Estates	345½	-2½	3.3	24.5
25.50	Smart (J)	252½	-5	5.0	9.1
34.50	Specity Shops	151½	-1	2.1	
402.20	TBI	81	+2½	2.1	28.7
85.40	Tops Ests	184	-3½	1.8	38.7
139.10	Town Centre	107	+½	4.4	13.4
103.20	Trafford Park	158	-1½	3.2	16.8
9.02	UK Land	96	..	3.8	8.4
113.80	Warner	223½	-10½	6.9	17.4
99.80	Warnford	280	..	3.8	18.2
221.30	Wates	111½	-2		
1.72	Whitney Mck	25	+½		
59.90	Workspace Grp	385½	..	5.1	14.8

RETAILERS, FOOD

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,822.90	ASDA Group	158½	-6½	2.4	16.2
278.00	Brake Bros	537½	+½	2.4	18.4
88.50	Budgens	58¼	-½	3.2	12.7
887.80	Dairy Farm Intl	59½	-2½	7.0	71.2
103.00	Fenmoor	220	..	2.8	17.5
94.70	Flowerwkr	37½	..	7.8	18.9
250.90	Fyffes	89	-1	2.4	11.2
232.90	Greggs	2000	..	2.1	19.3
216.50	Iceland Group	125½	+½	5.4	18.2
482.40	Kwik Save	310	-1½	6.1	11.2
1,547.00	Morrison (W)	205½	-2	1.1	18.0
71.10	Park Foods	44	..	8.7	12.6
1.82	Regina Hlth	6¼	+		
3,544.80	Safeway	324	+5	5.5	11.5
9,228.60	Sainsbury J	487	-3	3.2	19.8
599.50	Somerfield	188½	+½	6.8	7.1
10,468.60	Tesco	478½	-18½	2.8	19.1
153.50	Thornton	238½	+3	3.1	18.9
201.80	Watson & Philip	486	-14	4.8	11.2

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
137.50	Alldays	235	-½	..	13.1
180.40	Alders	223	+1	4.3	40.6
177.60	Allied Carpets	195½	..	4.8	16.9
1,780.60	Argos	620	-19	3.4	18.9
98.10	Ashley (Laura)	41½	-3	1.8	..
61.20	Austin Reed	195	-2½	4.3	13.1
34.40	Beale	337½	-2½	3.3	11.3
65.70	Beattie (J)	159	+2½	8.7	11.8
67.40	Bentalls	149½	..	2.5	5.2
94.80	Berkeley	89½	-2½	5.0	12.8
158.70	Blacks Leis	476½	-4½	1.2	18.4
284.50	Body Shop	152	-8	4.1	18.0
7,934.40	Boots	870	-16	3.0	20.2
33.30	Brown & Jackson	32½	+7½	..	
605.20	Brown (N)	414½	+1½	2.1	22.8
2,174.80	Burton	148½	+6½	2.9	20.1
403.20	Carpetright	515	+7½	4.8	18.3
385.10	Christies Int	290½	-13	2.7	16.5
45.00	Church	405	-2½	4.9	12.4
57.20	Clinton Cards	101½	..	2.7	14.5
17.80	C'try Casuals	93			
54.00	Country Gdn▲	205	+5	0.9	75.1
263.50	Courts Furnish	462½	-7½	1.0	18.2
604.80	DFS Furniture	578	+19½	2.7	28.3
2,902.60	Dixons Grp	673½	-6½	1.9	22.7
111.60	Elec Boutique	42½	-½	..	22.0
4.40	ERA Gp	3½	+¼	..	
6.37	Essex Furnt	53½	-½	8.8	10.8
47.80	Etam	139½	..	1.2	..
124.70	Fine Art Dev	154½	-10½	7.7	10.6
14.80	Floral Earth	250	-41½	1.2	20.6
93.00	Flying Flo Uk	392½	..	1.5	28.2
26.70	Formidable	107½	-1	3.0	45.8
72.70	French Conn	365	..	0.9	16.4
11.40	Gloves	39½	-2½	3.9	
72.90	Goldsmiths Grp	305	..	3.0	17.5
193.30	Grampian Hdg	745	..	5.8	11.9
6,981.70	GUS	695	-11	3.2	18.6
192.00	H&C Furnishing	278	-4½	2.7	42.8
76.20	Hamleys	326½	-8	3.5	18.1
14.80	Hampden Grp	94½	..	3.2	11.9
473.30	Hse of Fraser	207½	-2	3.3	
23.30	Hughes (TJ)	113	-2	3.4	15.2
536.90	JJB Sports	595½	-7½	1.1	28.9
5,516.20	Kingfisher	816	-25	3.1	17.9
52.40	Kingsbury Grp	204	..	2.3	22.6
60.60	Liberty	355	..	0.9	
36.60	Lionlight	35½	-3	..	25.9
725.50	MFI	122	-1	4.9	14.1
17,358.70	Marks Spencer	609	-44	2.7	22.2
212.00	Menzies (John)	378½	..	4.6	11.2
32.60	Merchant Retail	32	+2½	1.4	22.9
208.00	Moss Bros	233½	-½	2.9	15.7
2,787.80	Next	740	-8½	2.7	22.4
7.21	Oliver (G)	28½	-1		
256.70	Ottakars Intl#	480	..	3.3	..
30.00	Partners	100½	..	..	10.1
18.18	Parkside Flor	62	..	3.4	14.8
11.80	QS Hldgs	38			
116.90	Ratners	180½	..	3.5	16.7
93.40	Sava Group	45	-2½	8.2	7.2
743.40	Sears	45	-2½	9.5	37.2
506.60	Signet Group	33½	..	..	8.6
1,032.60	Smith WH	389	+7½	3.1	
564.80	Somerfield	1017½	-17½	2.3	
1,027.30	Storehouse	243½	+2	4.4	12.1
50.60	Style	65	+4	..	8.9
131.80	T & S Stores	183	+7	5.5	10.2
555.10	Thorn	178½	-½	11.4	8.0
67.00	Tie Rack	120	..	3.3	12.9
52.30	UNO	207	+3	2.8	20.8
6.04	Upton & South	3½			
3,296.50	Vendome	472¼	+12	2.8	17.4
6.18	WEW Group	4½	..	..	3.5
170.90	Wickes	226	..	..	4.4
106.70	Wyevale	223½	+1½	3.8	18.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
376.30	AEA Tech	435½	-15	2.4	21.9
423.00	Aggreko	189½	-½	2.7	22.3
121.20	Alpha Airpts	32	-4½	3.3	6.9
21.80	Alphameric	90	-2½	..	14.3
97.47	Asia Grp	41			
316.90	Atkins WS	346½	+2	2.5	21.4
32.10	BNB Rest	149½	-1	6.5	13.7
133.50	BPP	492½	-5	3.8	18.4
53.10	BSM	158½	-1	5.8	13.4
603.60	BTG	657½	+39½	8.2	
10.40	Brooks Service	81½	-1	5.5	12.0
285.20	Business Post	552½	..	2.6	25.5
854.10	CMG	1332½	-42½	0.6	49.5
491.20	CRT Grp	348	-2	1.9	30.6
32.80	Caird Gp	80	-25	1.6	7.9
627.20	Capita Group	327½	-4	0.7	40.5
2.78	Chemex	6½	..	2.8	12.8
333.10	Corp Services	280½	-7	3.5	18.8
13.80	Coats Cvtily	27½	-1	7.8	
57.19	DCS Gp	29½	-5	8.6	39.4
1,250.70	Davis Bs Sys	598	-12½	0.7	38.2
429.80	Davis Service	311	+7	4.3	17.9
191.40	Delphi	650	..	1.2	18.2
98.60	Diagonal	532	-8	0.2	54.7
34.80	Dudley Jenkins	280½	-2	3.3	20.9
11.90	EW Fact	65½	+8	3.8	11.4
14.50	El Data Prc	59½	..	3.8	17.8
220.20	FI Group	741½	+1½	0.9	54.8
87.40	Harvey Nash	313½	-8½	1.6	
3,066.00	Hays	736	+4	1.8	29.3
187.10	Hogg Robinson	223	+4½	3.5	18.5
359.70	JBA Hldgs	380	-17½	0.7	48.6
106.00	Johnson Clean	271½	-9	7.0	8.4
29.80	Kalamazoo	89½	+1	7.6	10.1
73.10	Kewill Sys	569½	+24½	2.2	13.5
5.63	Laser-Scan	17½			
82.60	Lavendon	322½	-5	1.3	25.7
732.80	Logica	1092½	+45	1.4	32.2
69.70	Lorien	497½	+1½	2.2	68.4
102.10	Lynx Hldgs	98	-3½	2.6	
89.80	MDIS	42½			
79.40	MMT Comp	667½	..	2.1	22.2
62.20	MR Group	111½	-3	4.3	15.2
67.00	Macro 4	349	..	..	95.1
39.50	Meadowmore Abbey	45	..	2.5	18.5
308.10	Micro Focus	1057½	-5	..	54.0
23.70	Microgen	75	-1	13.0	5.4
1,451.20	Misys	1520	+30	0.9	21.9
152.20	MITIE Gp	233½	-3	1.1	29.5
28.00	Novo Group	84½	..	3.9	11.7
26.30	Ortex	43	-1	3.7	12.1
91.80	PSD	379½	-8	1.9	17.5
8.32	Pacer Infotect	704½	-1	3.4	17.3
272.30	Parity▼	628	+1	0.9	34.9
16.70	Pegasus	288	-2½	3.9	10.1
15.90	Penant	145	+5	1.9	7.4
79.60	Photo-Me	111	-1½	5.6	13.5
21.80	Procdcod	27½	+1		
18.20	RCO	170	-1	11.6	19.8
41.10	RPS Group	107½	-2	2.8	17.5
8.94	Radius	35½	+7	5.8	9.9
23.30	Real Time	337½	+31	2.2	13.1
60.50	Rebus	87	-½	2.3	18.9
54.90	Reed Executive	115½	+1	3.0	8.6
37.20	Reliance Sec	162½	-1	5.2	19.7
7,133.20	Rentokil In	249½	-12½	1.3	27.4
68.19	Ricardo Group	148	..	5.3	24.3
94.30	Robert Walters	405½	-28	0.9	26.1
38.80	Rolfe & Nolan	308	..	2.3	20.7
73.50	Royalblue	222½	-7½	0.9	41.4
823.20	Sage Gp	761½	-3½	0.4	36.9
246.50	Salvesen (C)	93	+½	5.1	11.3
28.40	Sanderson Elec	64	-1½	3.0	5.8
514.50	Select App	580	-16½	0.7	24.8
1,515.10	Serco Gp	1317½	-10½	0.8	38.1
498.00	Securicor Gp	819	-37½	0.9	36.5
275.50	Shanks & McEwan	148½	-1½	3.4	18.7
31.40	Sherrard Intl	365	-½	1.6	17.0
63.00	Simon Grp	40	-1		
44.00	Sketchley	46½	..	3.0	
128.00	Skillsgroup	157½	+2½	2.9	12.4
23.50	Slot-Plus	129	-3½	18.9	11.4
10.40	Superscope VR	118	+3		
23.70	Torex	75	-3½	3.9	12.2
5,902.60	Tyco Intl	2258	..	0.3	
26.20	WSP Group	89½	+1	3.7	13.6
55.40	Waterman Howard	231	-½	5.9	10.5
705.10	Waste Mgt Intl	188	-6½		
130.20	Wace Group	279½	-8	8.9	31.0
26.80	Whitehead Mann	172½	-2	3.4	14.0
12.80	White Young Grnt	65½	+1½	6.6	10.3
2,514.80	Williams	322	-16	5.5	14.3

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
28,261.70	BT	457	+1½	5.3	13.6
12,218.00	Cable Wireless	538	+24½	2.5	22.5
3,694.40	Cable&Wire Coms	251½	+16½		
583.70	Colt Telecom	643½	+45		
80.70	Euro Telecom	258½	-53½	1.3	21.7
354.10	General Cable	97	-4		
2,989.00	Orange	249½	+7½		
1,658.00	Securicor	276½	+1	0.7	41.2
640.00	TeleWest	69	-3		
12,173.80	Vodafone	396	+18½	1.6	32.6

TEXTILES & APPAREL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2.03	Albion	53½	+1	4.2	51.4
41.10	Alexdn W	121½	+2	6.7	11.3
92.20	Allied Text	130	-18½	7.6	7.1
251.80	Baird (Wm)	216½	-1	5.7	16.5
24.40	Bridgort-Grdy	121½	+3	4.8	15.4
13.30	Br Mohair	100	..	6.9	38.0
41.80	Charnwood Gst	76½	-3	11.8	..
713.80	Coats Viyella	101½	-3	9.9	14.7
367.10	Courtauld Text	354	-2½	5.4	32.2
137.30	Dawson	69½	-2	6.4	12.4
306.80	Dewhirst (IJ)	232½	-6½	2.5	15.2
3.97	Dixie Hedt	24	-½	8.3	9.0
5.86	Drummond	27½	+4	8.1	5.3
3.86	Fespel	33	..	7.9	8.0
20.80	FI	89½	-6½	2.8	19.7
1.06	Foster (John)	9½	..		
6.50	French	58	..	9.6	11.4
18.10	Haggart	82½	..	6.8	11.8
23.10	Hardane	7	-½	8.6	
88.80	Hicking Pntcst	280	-10	3.5	15.6
3.36	Holes	2½	-½		
0.97	Honeysuckle	11½	-½	5.4	
25.20	Horace Small	76½	-1	..	8.2
6.56	Jacques Vert	21½			
6.64	Jerome (S)	49½	-2	8.1	11.8
60.40	Jones Stroud	349	-1	3.9	16.8
28.30	Lambert	205	+10	4.9	13.7
40.90	Lamont	136	-5½	11.8	11.3
49.80	Leeds	111½	..	7.6	8.9
8.49	Leslie Wise Gp	24	..	11.7	18.4
3.06	Lyles (S)	72½	-½	3.9	12.8
29.30	Matting	18½	..	1.5	63.5
5.02	PEX	3½	..	..	8.9
23.00	Parkland	184	-1	5.0	7.1
370.40	Pentland	102	-½	4.4	15.3
15.20	Pilords	69½	-1½	6.3	4.7
86.70	Readicut	41½	+2½	7.7	13.6
8.19	Richards	35	..	7.1	
3.74	SEET	28½	+1		
32.60	Sherwood Gp	28	+½	13.5	28.8
6.63	Sirdar	110½	-1	4.5	7.7
27.60	Sirdar	31	-4½	13.5	7.4
33.70	Stirling Gp	36½	..	7.5	10.2
3.84	UK Sdly	9½	-1½	..	11.6
10.60	Ulster (Frank)	145	..	9.5	7.4
5.04	Wensum	65½	-2½	9.5	5.7
15.70	Yorklyde	140	-1	7.3	16.5

TRANSPORT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
18.30	Air London	214	-2	3.8	13.1
4,076.10	All Nippon Air	282½	-1	0.5	
856.10	Avis	382	+9	4.1	11.1
1,082.60	Assoc Br Ports	281½	-2	3.7	14.4
905.50	Avis Europe	155½	-8	2.6	18.8
5,238.80	BAA	499½	+11½	3.2	15.3
5,588.70	Br Airways	537	-4	3.6	20.5
21.86	Clarkson (H)	107½	..	4.7	10.0
54.80	Clydeport Ops	131½	-3½	4.8	7.7
44.80	Dart	278½	+1	3.0	13.5
92.10	Eurodollar	186	..	4.7	14.8
310.40	Eurotunnel Uts	67½	+9		
737.20	FirstBus	233½	-2½	3.2	16.5
61.80	Fisher (James)	129	..	2.9	9.2
287.40	Forth Ports	800	-10	2.8	15.2
247.90	Go-Ahead	506	+5	2.0	19.9
298.80	Goode Durrant	493	-2	2.3	16.2
43.10	Helphire Gp	354	-7½	0.4	31.9
182.70	Irish Cont	730	+10	0.7	18.3
82.70	Jacobs	90½	-2½	2.8	40.3
68.10	Lep	89			
378.30	Mersey Docks	420	-6	3.9	14.7
988.10	NFC	141½	+4½	6.3	14.6
883.80	Nat Express	597½	+1½	2.5	13.3
806.20	Ocean Group	564½	+1	3.5	18.6
41.90	Ocean Wilson	105½	+2	4.5	18.9
3,948.50	P & O Dfd	641	-15	5.9	17.4
78.60	P & O 5.5%	118	-1½	5.8	
6,014.80	Railtrack	995	-22	2.9	18.9
11.20	Seacon	41	-½	3.8	27.4
132.80	Sovtalir	326½	-8½	2.0	29.8
1,840.40	Stagecoach	786½	-51	1.5	22.5
351.80	Tibbett & Britn	546½	-4	3.7	15.2
284.50	TDG	195½	-3½	6.1	13.7
105.90	Tiphook	81	-½	3.4	16.8
25.80	Utd Carriers	76	..	5.8	11.5

WATER

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2,188.10	Anglian	812	-8	5.6	11.9
128.20	East Surrey	281½	+½	5.2	10.8
1,358.80	Hyder	841	-20½	6.1	7.8
239.80	Hyder Cv Pf	115½	+½	4.8	
113.70	Mid Kent Hldgs	883	+32½	6.0	8.7
3,171.30	Severn Trent	939½	-4½	5.1	18.2
182.80	South Staffs	3265	+90	3.6	13.3
1,177.50	South West	897½	+4½	5.3	11.3
3,389.60	Thames	892	-43	5.1	9.8
4,094.20	Utd Utilities	761	-4	6.4	12.1
1,038.60	Wessex	484½	-22½	4.9	8.2
1,850.90	Yorkshire	481	+6½	5.0	9.4

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
8.43	Abacus Recruit	128½	+3½	1.4	15.0
10.20	Cala Inns▼	209	+5½	1.6	15.9
110.80	Dawson Hldgs	195	..	3.1	18.8
145.20	Freepages	29½	-3½	..	
41.80	Megalomedia	88	-½	0.4	52.3
23.40	Memory Corp	39½	-1½	..	
92.80	Prism Rail	387	+19½		
230.30	Ramco Egy	782½	-7½	0.2	..
179.20	Southern Nws	737½	..	3.4	
15.90	Southern Vectis	80½	+1	3.2	18.7
98.80	Toxodaroft	19	..	..	

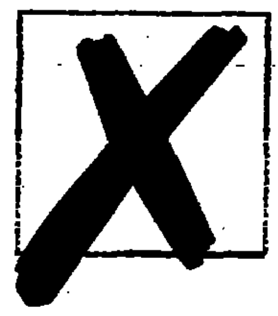
Source: FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
880	Treas 4⅝% 1998	116[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.89	6.42
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	100[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.72	7.24
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.31
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	103[illegible]	- [illegible]	13.58	7.27
935	Treas 15½% 1998	106[illegible]	- [illegible]	14.57	7.33
3,989	Exch 12% 1998	104[illegible]	- [illegible]	11.51	7.34
1,900	Treas 9½% 1999	102[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.28	7.33
3,058	Exch 12¼% 1999	106[illegible]	- [illegible]	11.54	7.25
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	104[illegible]	- [illegible]	10.05	7.19
6,950	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]	- [illegible]	6.11	7.08
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	105[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.71	7.16
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	103[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.68	7.09
9,800	Treas 8% 2000	102[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.79	6.99
109	Treas 8½% 2000	102[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.28	7.13
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	113[illegible]	- [illegible]	11.43	7.12
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	108[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.23	7.01
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	100[illegible]	- [illegible]	6.97	6.88
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
9,600	Treas 7% 2002	100[illegible]	- [illegible]	6.94	7.01
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	111[illegible]		8.74	6.85
8,600	Treas 8% 2003	105[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.56	6.74
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.68	6.76
1,820	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113[illegible]	- [illegible]	10.17	7.01
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	89[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.93	5.51
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.23	6.67
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	100[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.70	6.64
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	111[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.61	6.54
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	116[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.17	6.67
2,208	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.78	6.75
11,700	Treas 7½% 2006	106[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.05	6.54
4,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	107[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.19	6.57
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	104[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.65	6.88
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.71	6.83
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.49	6.56
9,000	Treas 7¼% 2007	105[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.87	6.49
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	119[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.51	6.41
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	112[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.11	6.45
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	97[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.36	6.48
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	122[illegible]	+1	7.35	6.49
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	123[illegible]	+1	7.30	6.50
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	91[illegible]	+ [illegible]	5.98	6.37
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	111[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.96	6.55
LONGS (over 15 years)					
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	114[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.97	6.49
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	116[illegible]	+1	6.88	6.42
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	125[illegible]	+1[illegible]	6.88	6.45
16,500	Tr 8% 2021	119[illegible]	+1[illegible]	6.70	6.38
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	54[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.47	..
475	Treas 2½%	37[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.65	..
359	Consols 4%	59[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.71	..
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				5%	3%
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	197[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.18	3.49
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2003	199[illegible]	+1[illegible]	3.14	3.35
1,150	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	123[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.10	3.27
2,500	Treas IL 2% 2006	204[illegible]	+1[illegible]	3.13	3.26
2,825	Treas IL 2½% 2009	186[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.08	3.18
3,100	Treas IL 2½% 2011	194[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.07	3.17
3,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	161[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.07	3.15
3,825	Treas IL 2½% 2016	174[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.06	3.14
3,700	Treas IL 2½% 2020	165[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.08	3.15
3,850	Treas IL 2½% 2024	142[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.08	3.13
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	138[illegible]	+2[illegible]	3.07	3.12

WITHDRAWN



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CORPORATE PROFILE: *CU*

THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £5.8 billion
Total premium income in nine months to September 1997: £6.25 billion
Operating profit before tax (nine months): £358 million
Shareholders' funds: £4 billion
Activities: life and general insurance
Subsidiary company locations: Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Luxembourg, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, US, and Zimbabwe.

THE BOARD

Nicholas Baring, 63, was appointed chairman in 1990. He joined the board of CU in 1968 after the merger with Northern & Employers Assurance Company, having been a director of that company since 1966.
John Carter, 59, chief executive since 1994, joined CU in 1961. He was appointed UK general manager in 1984 and joined the board in 1987.
Peter Foster, 50, joined CU in 1963. He was appointed general manager of finance in 1991 and has been finance director since he joined the board in 1994. He is Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.
■ Other board members include: **Tony Wyand**, executive director, 53, who has worked for CU since 1971. He joined the board in 1987; **Frances Heaton**, independent director, 52, who has been a board member for three years and is a director of the Bank of England. She is also an executive director of Lazard Brothers and deputy chairman of WS Atkins; **Sir Tim Lankester**, independent director, 54, appointed to the board in 1996. He is the director of the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London, chairman of the board of the SIMBA Fund and a director of Smith & Nephew. He was formerly an executive director of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; **Henk Meij**, independent director, 68, an emeritus professor and chairman of an Advisory Board at the Free University of Amsterdam; **Derek Stevens**, independent director of the board for two years, and director and chief financial officer of British Airways; **Andre Villeneuve**, 53, executive director of Reuters Holdings.

The international life and general insurer that we know today as CU has been formed over more than a century as a result of a series of mergers and takeovers and despite losses sustained in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the sinking of the Titanic, two world wars and the Bishopsgate bomb in 1993.

Today, however, the fate of the £4 billion insurer is closely linked to the ups and downs of the London stock market.

The trouble with insurance companies is that they act as a proxy for the market.

When times are good, the value of their shareholders' funds rises strongly. When the market takes a tumble, as it has over the autumn, the value of invested funds falls and the City's love affair with the sector goes sour.

Commercial Union's admission that in just six weeks the volatility of the London market wiped £400 million from shareholders' funds of £4.4 billion meant the City marked the share price sharply down.

This seems rather harsh for an insurer that has considerable global interests and earns 45 per cent of its total premium income from life business.

However, CU's shares have lagged the rest of the composite insurance sector this year, mainly because of the perception that its high proportion of overseas profits leaves it vulnerable to the strong pound.

Almost half of CU's life profits this year have come from The Netherlands, with the UK and France the next biggest markets. The composite has a comparatively small life operation in the US.

By contrast, general insurance profits are more evenly spread across Europe, North America and the rest of the world. France is currently the largest contributor to profits, eclipsing the UK result which this year has been hit by difficult trading conditions.

In 1994 CU made the biggest investment in France by any UK company in any sector by buying Groupe Victoire with its Abeille portfolio of businesses.

This acquisition doubled staff numbers in the French operation. On the life side, though, growth in France has been slow over the past couple of years because of the uncertainty over the tax regime and fears about the economy.

On the general insurance side, a lot of French companies expanded quickly, and as a result profitability in the market suffered. The ongoing consolidation — for example, the recent deal between Axa and UAP — may help to take some of this excess capacity out of the market, but the market is still competitive.

CU celebrated its official 125th anniversary in 1986. The company was founded in 1861 — the year that a fire devasted a group of warehouses in Tooley Street, near London Bridge.

The claims that followed this event caused London's fire insurance companies to increase their premium rates dramatically, which in turn led to a group of merchants setting up their own insurance company, which became Commercial Union.

The first chairman was the dynamic Henry Peek. Though only in his thirties, he had considerable business experience and remained on the board until the late 1890s, exerting a profound influence over the development of the company.

CU's first offices were in Gracechurch Street in the City of London, but it soon outgrew these and moved to Cornhill. By this time CU was writing life and marine business, and it shortly made its first venture into the international market.

The company grew rapidly, setting up representatives in Canada, India, the US and Australia. By the turn of the century CU had subsidiary companies in the US, Australia and Singapore. In 1900 it bought the Palatine Insurance Company, which introduced accident insurance to CU and effectively made it a composite.

One section of CU dates back to 1696. The Hand-in-Hand Fire and Life Insurance Society was the oldest existing insurance company in the world, but at the start of this century accepted CU's merger proposal.

CU made further acquisitions after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Unlike other companies, it was financially strong enough to pay claims in full. It then acquired a number of the ailing companies including the Union Assurance Society, founded in 1714, bought soon after the earthquake.

Accident insurance was added to the group's overseas business in 1910 with the acquisition of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation.

CU began to expand its marine department in the early 20th century, and was involved with the Titanic. Despite this setback it achieved a profit of £100,000 in 1912.

During the recession that followed the First World War Commercial Union suffered its first fall in income since 1908. The 1930s were also difficult for all businesses and were marked by a period of consolidation. By 1939 CU's total assets had risen to £70 million.

Rapid economic recovery after the Second World War was beneficial to CU and the base of its US fire and liability business was broadened by the purchase of the North British and Mercantile Assurance Company in 1959 and the Northern and Employers Group in 1968.

Commercial Union ended the 1960s with a move to a new head office in the City of London. St Helen's, which still houses the company's head office, but in April 1992 the building was devastated by a 1001b bomb planted by the IRA nearby in St Mary Axe. The insurer is now back in the building.

So what does the future hold? The group was approached by BAT Industries this year with a joint venture proposal involving a spin-off of BAT's life operations, including Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar.

The talks came to nothing, and BAT Industries linked up with Zurich Life. However, the event highlights how the composites feel under pressure from larger US and European rivals, and feel the need to grow bigger in order to compete.

The UK life insurance market is still fragmented — CU holds a 2 per cent share. The company has said that it would consider an acquisition in the life market in the UK, but says it has its doubts about "finding something at an appropriate price". Privately, directors admit that mutual life companies are attractive, but probably still too expensive.

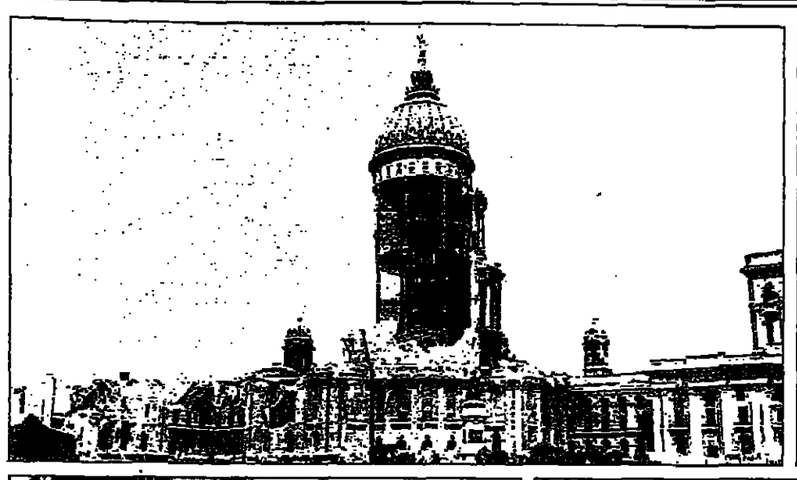
CU was among the second batch of insurance companies called in by Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, to be "named and shamed" for their part in the personal pensions mis-selling scandal of the 1980s.

Integrity Works, the consultant, points out that the company only introduced its code of ethics last year, as the mis-selling scandal began to unroll. It does spell out that "no one will be criticised for any loss of business which may result from adherence". But the code consists mainly of a list of prohibitions and is silent on specific measures for measuring compliance with its requirements. It also offers little general guidance to staff when confronted with decisions not covered by policy or precedent.

There have also been criticisms that the company has failed to bring in fresh blood from outside. Certainly, none of the directors is younger than 50, and a significant number have little experience of working life outside CU.

Analysts say this means that the company is run by people who truly understand life business and underwriting and that, given time, this expertise should enable CU to catch up with its fellow composites. The board is already well rewarded for its experience. The highest-paid executive at CU is John Carter, who received a total salary of £640,029 in 1996. Crisp Consulting calculates on its executive pay model that he should have received a salary of £354,016, so reckons that his salary represents an overpayment of 81 per cent. But the six non-executives are less generously rewarded: the average salary of each non-executive was 13 per cent less than the average for all non-executive directors of FTSE 100 companies.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



Disasters such as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the sinking of the *Titanic* and the Bishopsgate bomb have all taken their toll of Commercial Union. John Carter, above left, and Tony Wyand after the company's investment in Groupe Victoire, and Nicholas Baring, the chairman, below

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"CU is repositioning its business away from lower-quality cyclical UK non-life earnings towards high-quality, higher-growth overseas life earnings. In the long term this should have a beneficial effect on the company's prospects and valuation." *Paul Goodhind, NatWest Securities*

"The group has had a clear strategy of building up its European life operation and reducing the importance of general insurance, particularly in the US. Unfortunately, the benefits to both profit and net asset value growth have been curtailed by the strength of sterling. It has also been disadvantaged by having a relatively low exposure to equities. However, in the longer term we believe shareholders should reap the benefits of its long-term strategy." *Steven Bird, Merrill Lynch*

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression[1]	5/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	5/10
Financial record	6/10
Share performance	7/10
Attitude to employees	6/10
Strength of brand	9/10
Innovation	5/10
Annual report	7/10
City star rating	6/10
Future prospects	7/10
Total	63/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by *Integrity Works*. The Fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by *Crisp Consulting*.

Fitness First in joint venture

BY FRASER NELSON

FITNESS FIRST, the leisure chain listed on the Alternative Investment Market, is to expand its network of health clubs through a £10 million joint venture with Berkeley, the upmarket housebuilder.

The company, which already runs 14 health clubs, will announce today that it will open between ten to 15 new sites through the deal.

Berkeley is to invest £1 million in Fitness First shares, buying 533,000 at Friday's market price of 187½p. It will own a 1.9 per cent stake in the company after the deal.

Both Fitness First and Berkeley are putting an initial £2 million into the joint venture, to be called FFB. It will borrow a further £6 million from banks.

Michael Balfour, managing director of Fitness First, said the FFB expansion was in addition to existing plans to convert anything from disused supermarkets to Scout huts.

Coutts & Co

Notice of Interest Rates for Private and Business Clients effective from 1 December 1997

	gross interest rate p.a.	gross compounded annual rate (C.A.R.)
Current and Deposit Accounts for Private Clients		
Current Account with Cash Management Option*‡ and Reserve Account*		
£100,000+	5.375%	5.398%
£50,000-£99,999	5.05%	5.126%
£20,000-£49,999	4.25%	4.272%
£5,000-£19,999	3.75%	3.792%
TESSA*	7.25%	7.45%
Charity TESSA*	6.525%	6.69%
Deposit Accounts for Private and Business Clients		
Three Month Reserve Account*		
£50,000+	6.625%	6.693%
£25,000-£49,999	5.50%	5.56%
£10,000-£24,999	5.00%	5.08%
7 Day Notice Deposit Account*	1.00%	1.00%
Deposit Accounts for Business Clients		
Reserve Accounts for Businesses/Charities/Societies*		
£250,000-£1 million	4.65%	4.71%
£100,000-£249,999	4.40%	4.56%
£25,000-£99,999	4.20%	4.26%
£10,000-£24,999	3.60%	3.64%

‡Interest is paid quarterly †Interest is paid half-yearly
*Interest is paid only on the portion of the cleared balance which exceeds £5,000.

- Interest is payable on Reserve Account balances below the minimum level at a gross rate of 1% p.a. (Gross C.A.R. 1%).
- Interest will be paid after deducting tax (where applicable) at the prescribed rate.
- The gross compounded annual rate is the rate where gross interest payments are retained on the account during the year.
- We are also able to place sterling and other currencies in the Money Markets. All rates are subject to variation.

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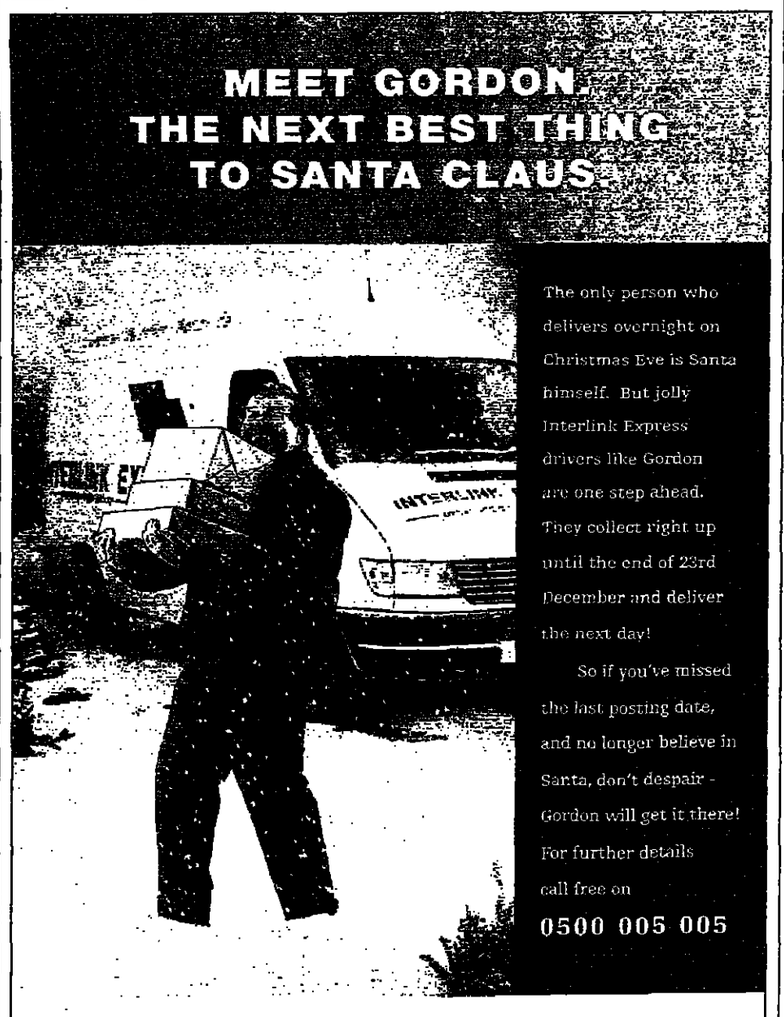

New Investment Rates

EFFECTIVE MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 1997.

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90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT ANNUAL INTEREST			90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT MONTHLY INTEREST		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	7.40%	5.92%	£100,000+	7.16%	5.73%
£50,000+	7.05%	5.64%	£50,000+	6.83%	5.47%
£25,000+	6.85%	5.48%	£25,000+	6.64%	5.32%
£10,000+	6.80%	5.44%	£10,000+	6.60%	5.28%
£5,000+	5.95%	4.76%	£5,000+	5.79%	4.63%

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WOOLWICH GUERNSEY LIMITED

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With effect from 1st December 1997

Sterling International Gross Account* *With instant access		Gross paid annually	Gross paid monthly
	£500 - £9,999	6.20%	6.03%
	£10,000 - £39,999	6.70%	6.50%
	£40,000 - £99,999	7.45%	6.93%
	£100,000 - £249,999	7.40%	7.16%
	£250,000 - £999,999	7.55%	7.30%
	£1 million +	7.70%	7.44%

Principal Place of Business and Registered Office:
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For details of all accounts offered by Woolwich Guernsey
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Payout boost likely as Stagecoach accelerates

Stagecoach managing director Ann Gloag and Brian Souter are expected to impress

STAGECOACH: Britain's biggest transport operator, headed by Brian Souter, chairman, has had its toe down to the floor on the acquisition front during the past couple of years and it now seems headed for a period of consolidation.

Even so, half-year figures out on Tuesday should still make impressive reading, with NatWest Markets forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits from £35.5 million to £76.4 million, an increase of 115 per cent. Earnings will be up from 13.6p to 22.3p.

Solid progress is expected across all four divisions, with the UK bus side enjoying a gradual improvement in margins despite some costs attributed to the "bus wars" in Strathclyde.

Overseas buses should be showing signs of improvement, while South West Trains has now fully recovered from operational problems at the start of the year.

Porterbrook, the train leasing business, has enjoyed solid margin growth, with maintenance costs reduced. The payout is expected to leap 40 per cent from 3p to 4.2p.

GEC: Speculation was rife last week about a possible successor to Lord Prior as chairman. The hot money is riding on Sir Roger Hurn, currently heading Smiths Industries. Meanwhile, brokers will be pressing Lord Simpson, chief executive, on his plans for the future.

Will the group concentrate on the defence industry and will it begin to spin off its interests in the various joint ventures? These are questions that the City feels should be urgently addressed.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, expects half-year figures on Thursday to show pre-tax profits growing from £421 million to £450 million, producing earnings of 10.1p per share against 9.5p last time.

The payout will grow from 3.3p to 3.5p.

IMPERIAL GROUP: NatWest Markets, the broker, is clearly hoping for some positive news from the tobacco producer when it unveils its first set of full-year figures since demerging. Last week it raised its pre-tax profits forecast by £6 million to £312 million, giving earnings of 40.1p per share. That compares with the £288 million achieved last year and the £310 million looked for by other brokers.

Imps continues to lose market share in this country and without the benefits of the Rizla acquisition the profits contribution from the UK was likely to have been static at around £314 million.

There will be a first-time payout of 21.5p.

S&N: There should be something for Scottish & Newcastle shareholders to raise a glass to when Britain's biggest brewer delivers half-year figures today. Panmure Gordon, the broker, is looking for pre-tax profits to come in at around £220 million, compared with £198 million last time. The market range is between £215 million and £227 million.

Another solid performance is expected from the brewing operations. The group now commands around 30 per cent of the beer market, accounting for just over 40 per cent of group profits. A similar healthy performance is anticipated by its managed pub chain. But the leisure division, including Centre Parcs, will have struggled to make headway. The dull state of the north European economy, combined with currency factors, will have continued to take their toll. The pound appreciated by around 14 per cent against the Dutch guilder. The payout is expected to grow from 7.21p to 7.9p.

BASS: Brokers are looking for good news from the group when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. Strong profits growth, news of disposals and even the possibility of a share buyback have all been mentioned.

Pre-tax profits will come in at around the £725 million to £735 million level, compared with £674 million last time, while earnings should grow 9 per cent to 55.3p per share.

Pubs remain the biggest contributor to profits and brewing will be up around 7 per cent. But brokers are braced for a net downturn in hotels. The best performance will be reserved for leisure.

CARLTON: Another strong performance from the film production division of Carlton Communications should provide the main impetus to full-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profit forecasts range from £325 million to £337 million, with earnings 12 per cent higher at 31.8p per share. But the 10 per cent improvement from film production will be offset to a certain extent by a decline in video duplication. Growth in television, which includes LWT, is likely to have slowed to 10 per cent from 19 per cent in the first six months. A dividend of 12.4p is expected compared with 11.1p last time.

GRANDMET: The last set of full-year figures to be recorded by Grand Metropolitan before the merger with Guinness are published on Wednesday.

They may fail to impress at first glance. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in virtually unchanged at £969 million, with earnings stagnant at 31p. This is largely due to the negative impact of currency translations and the disposal of its European food interests. After stripping that out, the rest of the operations are firing on all cylinders. The payout will be 17.2p net compared with 15.9p last time.

GUS: First-half results at Great Universal Stores on Thursday will be clouded by an array of currency losses and one-offs. Pre-tax profits will come in at between £240 million and £245 million compared with £226.7 million last time, while earnings will grow from 14.9p to 15.9p per share. The payout should grow 9 per cent to 6p.

MICHAEL CLARK

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ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

All eyes on the Bank's rate setters

THE UK economic week will be dominated by the monthly meeting of the Bank of England monetary policy committee, ending on Thursday.

Eddie George last week told the Commons Treasury Select Committee that he did not feel that South-East Asia's problems were causing sufficient pain in the UK to preclude further rate rises. However, data since last month's rate rise has been mixed and has probably eased pressure on the Bank for a pre-Christmas rise, although the market consensus is that the Bank will move again early next year.

UK data this week will provide only limited clues as to how the economy did in November. On Monday, the narrow money supply data is expected to show a small increase, with MMS International, the forecasting company, predicting a tick up in the annual rate, from 6.4 per cent to 6.8 per cent. There should also be a bounce back in October's consumer credit figures, also due on Monday, with credit rising from £733 million to £1.2 billion in line with stronger retail sales.

The CBI distributive trades survey for November, out on Wednesday, will give the first indication of whether retailers are in for a bumper Christmas.

Abroad, Asian market turmoil will remain the centre of attention. Japan's Government is not expected to complete its banking sector salvage package until next week, but any news about it will be eagerly devoured by the markets.

In the US, jobs data will dominate. Growth in non-farm payrolls is tipped to slow from 284,000 to 215,00 in November.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

RESULTS STATS

TODAY

Interims: AEA Technology, Acal, AIT Group, Allen, Asset Management Investment, Bath Press Group, Compco Holdings, Eliza Tinsley, Jennings Brothers, Prism Rail, Scottish & Newcastle, James Smith Estates, Wainhomes. **Finals:** Brooke Industrial Holdings, Delfron Electronics, Guinness, Flight Extra Inc, Imperial Tobacco Group, SBS Group, Waverley Mining, H Young. **Economic statistics:** October consumer credit, October final M4 money supply.

TOMORROW

Interims: Alba, Allied Colloids Group, Aortech International, Columbus Group, East Surrey Holdings, Field Group, Hazelwood Foods, Merrydown, Morrison Construction, Norbain, OMI International, Siebe, Stagecoach, Videologic Group. **Finals:** Character Group, Chrysalis Group, Eldridge Pope, Get Group, Sanderson Electronics, Scottish Radio Holdings. **Economic statistics:** Halifax November house price survey.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: BTG, Eve Group, Gibbon Group, Samuel Heath, Orbis, Quilgotti. **Finals:** Bass, Blick, Carlton Communications, Heal's, MEPC. **Economic statistics:** Bank of England two-day MPC meeting begins.

THURSDAY

Interims: Abbeycrest, Castings, Expro International, GEC, GUS, Hanson, ML Holdings, TLG. **Finals:** Avon Rubber, Denby Group, Dewhurst, Grand Metropolitan, Greencore Group, Hawtin, Stakis. **Economic statistics:** October housing starts, September new car registrations, CBI distributive trades survey, Bank of England announcement on interest rates.

FRIDAY

Interims: Courts, Greene King. **Finals:** Landround, Phytopharm. **Economic statistics:** Q3 construction output.

[illegible]

The Sunday Times: Buy Babcock, Atlantic Telecom, Stakis, Britax International. *The Sunday Telegraph:* Buy Anglo Pacific Resources; Hold Morrison Construction, EMI. *The Observer:* Buy BICC, ED&F Man. *Mail On Sunday:* Buy Reckitt & Colman. *The Express on Sunday:* Buy Lonrho.

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Arjo Wiggins

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Company doctor faces fight with Eagle investors

By Gavin Lumsden

DAVID JAMES, the company doctor currently looking for a buyer for Sears's shoe businesses, faces one final battle today before he can bring down the curtain on Eagle Trust, the hapless former conglomerate that he plans to place in voluntary liquidation.

At Eagle Trust's extraordinary meeting this afternoon in London, private shareholders are planning to resist Mr James, who has been the company's chairman and chief executive since the scale of its problems became clear in 1989.

John Ferriday, Eagle Trust's former chairman, was found to have stolen £13 million from the company in the 1987 stock market crash, for which he received a six-year prison sentence. The theft and other dealings left Eagle under a mountain of debt.

What has incensed some shareholders is Mr James's flotation of Eagle Trust's last asset, Visual Action Holdings, which they claim was grossly undervalued. Visual Action, the former hirer of film equipment known as Samuelson, joined the market at 185p in March 1996, valuing it at £85 million. This is less than two thirds of the 295p a share paid for Visual Action last month when Caribiner International, a US rival, made a recommended takeover offer worth £148 million.

Eagle Trust's 31,000 small shareholders were prevented from buying Visual Action shares in the flotation although they later received 1p for every Eagle Trust share held.

The investors claim Mr James has consistently neglected their interests in favour of three banks — Standard Chartered, Lloyds and NatWest — that bailed out the company when it was hit by financial crisis.

Mr James said: "My first responsibility has been to discharge all the obligations to all the creditors. The banks are secured creditors, so they come first."

Stagecoach line rallies

By Fraser Nelson

STAGECOACH has turned South West Trains, its London Waterloo commuter line, into the fourth most punctual service in Britain.

The company, which was fined £1 million for delays last winter, has reduced the number of late trains by an average 40 per cent at the halfway stage. At the same time its Island Line franchise on the Isle of Wight saw the most rapid deterioration in punctuality with one in every 20 of its services running late.

Stagecoach, which reports half-year results tomorrow, has been fined £7,200 for failings in Island Line, but has been awarded a £151,000 bonus for the improvement at South West Trains. It is expected to return £69 million of pre-tax profit, after a £32.5 million subsidy.

Whitbread to double TGI Friday's UK outlets

By Dominic Walsh

WHITBREAD is planning to double the size of TGI Friday's, its American restaurant chain over the next four years with the aim of creating a £100 million business.

Mike Johnson, managing director of the Friday's brand, said the aim was to grow to 50 outlets by 2001, while attempting to revive sales growth at the existing 24 restaurants.

Mr Johnson said the five sites in the pipeline for 1998 — Edinburgh, Guildford, Bristol, Crawley and Chester — would have around 200 seats. He estimated the total cost per unit at about £1.1 million.

The franchise agreement with the brand's owner, Carlson Hospitality, extends to the Irish Republic and Mr Johnson said he was actively seeking a site in the centre of Dublin. However, he was cautious over a move onto the Continent where Whitbread has had mixed fortunes. "We haven't discounted it, but at the moment there are plenty of opportunities in the UK."

The Friday's menus are also being revamped after a slowdown in like-for-like sales growth. The menus will reflect the growth of the family market and the growing sophistication of diners.

Mike Johnson, managing director of TGI Friday's, wants to open 50 new restaurants

Partner deals 'deliver results'

Partnership between management and unions is widespread in British industry and is delivering direct bottom-line benefits, a report by Industrial Relations Services, the employment analyst, says.

In the survey of 50 key organisations IRS found 44 using a partnership approach — involving employees in drawing up and executing company policies, but with management retaining the right to manage.

Half of the partnership organisations said they had obtained measurable bottom-line improvements. SmithKline Beecham said it had saved £7.2 million from implementing business process re-engineering and Blue Circle, the cement group, saved £2 million a year on delivery fleet costs.

Big interest in digital TV

A report today by The Survey Shop for Pace Micro Technology, the digital television receiver equipment maker, found that 41 per cent of 1,000 people surveyed would value home banking via the TV set and 36 per cent were interested in home shopping.

Forty-eight per cent said they would be happy to buy holidays over the Internet, 41 per cent music, and 36 per cent videos.

ScS to float

ScS Upholstery, the regional furniture retailer founded more than 100 years ago, plans to join the stock market next week. The placing is sponsored by Singer & Friedland with Collins Stewart acting as broker to the issue.

Granada sale

Granada, the media and leisure group, is set to announce the sale for about £82 million of Côté France, its French motorway services chain, to Autogrill, the Italian restaurant group.

Bad boss line

The TUC today urges employees to expose "bad bosses" by reporting them to a confidential telephone hotline service.

Portfolio

Two winners shared *The Times* Portfolio prize on Saturday. They are A. Cook, of Cottesmore, Rutland, and L. Marten, of Leeds. Both receive £500.

Walker Wingsail's chief survives shareholder coup

By Paul Durman

AFTER seeing off an attempt to oust its chairman at the weekend, Walker Wingsail Systems, the Plymouth firm that makes boats with rigid sails, is planning to float on the Alternative Investment Market in a couple of years.

By then, John Walker will have stepped aside as chairman to spend more time sailing. Mr Walker, 60, has spent much of the last 30 years — and £12 million — on his idea for yachts controlled by aircraft-style wings.

About 400 shareholders attended Walker Wingsail's annual meeting on Saturday. But a poll on adopting the firm's accounts — effectively a vote of confidence — was not needed because holders of 25 million shares had cast proxies backing Mr Walker, three times the 8.4 million votes against. Mr Walker said: "This is a total vindication."

The defeated dissident group, which had criticised Mr Walker's repeated failure to keep to forecasts, believes the firm has responded to pressure with the appointment of Gilbert Cole as managing director, and John Edge as production director.

Mr Walker enjoys a devoted following among his 6,700 shareholders, who, despite setbacks, invest great faith in the wingsail technology.

Merrydown likely to stay flat

By Dominic Walsh

MERRYDOWN, the embattled cidermaker, is expected to produce another set of disappointing results tomorrow, putting further pressure on Richard Purdey to step down as chairman.

The past couple of years have been something of a rollercoaster ride for shareholders as Two Dogs alcoholic lemonade, initially hailed as a huge moneyspinner, turned into a disaster as competitors flooded the market. The shares, currently at a year's low of 50p, have more than halved in the past year.

In July, on the back of a drop in full-year pre-tax profits from £2.03 million to just £821,000, Mr Purdey promised to streamline the board, since when Alan Rutherford, sales and marketing director, and Stephen Burke, finance director have moved on.

In a bid to halt declining sales of Two Dogs, distribution of the brand has been handed to Scottish & Newcastle, but there are now fears that this year's difficult apple harvest may have forced the company to buy apple concentrate at inflated prices.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997 High	Low	Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	13.50	AFA Systems	112½	...	...	
153½	131½	18.90	AMCO Corp	132½	...	6.1	6.8
422½	170	43.90	AND Int Pub	185			
139½	84½	8.43	Abacus Recruit	129½	+3½	1.4	15.0
195	99½	31.80	Access Plus	189	+4	3.4	21.6
89¼	5¾	3.09	Active Imaging	7½	-½	...	...
230	200	31.30	A de Gruchy	210		4.4	10.7
11¼	6¾	7.72	African Gold	7½	-½	...	30.3
117½	72½	33.40	Airtech	73½	-7	...	...
44½	31¼	12.90	Albemarle & Bd	34	+½	1.8	12.9
52½	29	5.62	Alcyone	32½		...	...
111½	73½	2.40	Anglo-Welsh	77½		1.6	...
610	455	57.70	Arm St Brewery	595	-4	4.5	10.7
1240	1015	7.20	Arm St Cv Pf	1215		6.6	...
125½	65½	71.60	Antonov	93½		...	...
148½	99½	19.40	Aortech	112½	+2	...	...
105	90	4.64	Aram Resources	90		5.8	...
100½	90	9.15	Archer Dedicated	90		1.1	...
262½	130	52.00	Ask Central	250	+5	0.2	38.7
69½	62½	1.13	Atheiney Trust	62½	-5	2.0	54.1
32	9½	10.50	Atlantic Caspian	15		...	...
103½	58½	44.50	Avalon Oil	58½	-1½	...	...
144½	120½	38.90	BATM Adv Comms	125		2.4	...
240	14½	5.97	BKG Res	15	-5½	...	...
3½	3½	2.57	Bakery Services	3½	...	...	19.1
59½	25	8.69	Barbican Health	45		...	...
13½	6½	20.30	Barraclord	11¼	-½	...	...
3¼	1¾	3.30	Beechcroft	1¾		...	6.7
4½	2½	5.80	Beaston	3		2.8	16.6
45½	36½	6.50	Bickerton	42½		...	17.5
90	60	1.22	Biflam	76		8.7	23.2
76½	43½	3.92	Bilston Bttrsea	44		4.3	22.8
2½	1	6.07	Birchin Intl	1½		...	...
1¼	0¼	0.07	Birchin Wts	0¾		...	
65	33½	18.20	Birmingham City	36½	-2	...	...
90½	70½	7.25	Blakes Cloth	72½		2.5	7.9
295	145	1.65	Bowness Leis	235	+10	2.7	8.8
62½	37½	6.90	Brancote Hdgs	37½	-2½	...	...
97	85	3.99	Br Bloodstock	95		2.6	11.6
19½	16½	0.78	Buckland Inv	18½		...	...
12	8	0.08	Buckland Inv Wts	10		...	...
210	144½	24.70	CA Coutts Hldgs	209	+9	1.9	16.7
180	128½	11.90	C & B Publishing	165		...	15.2
109½	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½		...	...
190½	140½	1.51	CCI Hldgs	167½		1.9	8.5
217	170	10.20	Cafe Ines	209	+3½	1.8	15.9
70	55	7.38	Caledonian Tst	60		...	10.2
18¼	9	3.72	Cambridge Min Res	16¼	-2	...	...
3¼	2	2.70	Cambury Inv	2		...	...
1½	0½	0.68	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾		...	
51	29	40.10	Card Clear	38	-½	0.3	34.7
97½	52½	5.50	Carisbrooke Ship	54½		8.0	8.8
62	42	2.31	Cassidy Bros	42	-4	8.9	48.0
57½	42½	2.22	Cavendish W	50½		4.2	23.2
18	10½	3.51	Celebrated Group	10½	-1	3.5	18.9
£550	£245	73.50	Celtic	£245		...	15.4
£490	£225	43.50	Celtic Pf Shs	£235	...	1.5	
112½	96½	23.50	CI Comms(TV)	107½	...	3.7	12.3
65	49½	11.30	Charlton Athletic	51½	...	...	16.1
9¼	6¼	9.50	Charterhouse Coms	8½	...	3.4	11.9
37½	12½	1.44	Chartwell Intl	12½		...	...
170	88	158.70	Chelsea Village	101½	-5	...	...
265	90	6.93	Chemical Design	105	-5	...	...
109½	92½	33.20	Citadel	100½	-2	...	...
110	105	0.94	Clan Homes	105		...	27.9
4½	2	0.84	ClubPartners	2		...	...
36½	7	12.90	Coffee Rep	23½	-2½	...	...
152½	105½	15.40	Comino	127½		2.1	10.8
597½	527½	13.50	Core de Pri Fin	562½		2.1	...
155	109½	7.35	Computerland UK	122½	-8	1.5	18.3
30	14	8.97	Concurrent Tech	18½	...	1.4	35.7
150	95	0.25	Conc Tech A Pf	100		...	...
150	95	0.20	Conc Tech B Pf	100		...	...
200	125	1.01	Conc Tech Rd Pf	150		...	...
300	150	0.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225		...	...
41	31½	8.40	Coraster Tst	38	-1¼	6.6	9.5
4½	2	5.46	Corporate Exec	3½		...	...
57½	6½	6.41	Creos Intl	15		...	...
165½	153½	8.47	Cresco Intl	153½		...	...
250	205	3.88	Crown Eye	242½		6.4	20.1
2½	1½	0.82	Crown Products	1¾	-1	...	4.4
28½	18½	0.96	Dalkeith Inns	20	+½	...	...
295½	115	12.80	Dawn Til Dusk	267½	+22½	0.7	20.8
202½	180	110.60	Dawson Hldgs	195		3.1	18.8
196½	167½	12.10	Deep Sea Leisure	191½	+24	...	27.2
4½	2	4.52	Densmaster	3½	-¼	3.2	...
[illegible]	251½	32.40	Dicom	251½	-53½	1.2	...
118	89½	13.20	Digital Anims	90	-4½	...	...
101½	74½	8.26	Delyn Group	95		2.6	...
33	30	6.20	Dinotec	33		...	...
310	240	12.50	Dobbies Garden	260	+1	2.2	15.2
160½	127½	15.10	Dragons Health	150½	-2	0.8	16.9
4½	2	2.08	Drings of Bath	2¾		...	25.5
45½	30	3.38	Eagle	34½		...	...
99½	49½	18.20	Easynet	89	-½	...	...
385½	207½	77.00	Elec Retail Sys	365	-7½	...	...
52½	27½	29.10	Electrophoretics	37½	-2	...	...
10	7½	2.80	Epic Multimedia	12		...	...
65	45	11.60	Epicore Networks	45		...	...
125	110	4.25	Eurasia Mining	115		...	...
35	19	1.64	European Mng Fin	20	-1	...	...
4½	2½	0.03	European Mng Fin Wts	2½		...	...
190½	125	7.36	Euro Sales Fn	160		...	17.1
4½	3	3.59	Fairplace Cons	3		...	...
190	140	4.81	Farlake	165		...	14.4
49½	47	7.83	Fayrewood	55½		1.8	25.9
[illegible]	85	34.80	Fibernet	93½	-11½	...	...
191½	32½	1.62	Fieldens	32½	-2	...	...
202½	197½	5.53	Fiel Publs	197½		...	36.4
4½	3	0.71	First Intor	3½		...	...
208½	109½	51.60	Fitness First	187½		...	67.5
230	130	3.38	Flomerics	130		2.9	63.7
100	100	3.10	Floral St	100		1.9	6.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	4.72	FMR Hldgs	22½		...	...
155	102½	10.90	Formscan	102½		2.7	11.2
[illegible]	89½	11.70	Fountain Forestry	130	-3½	2.6	18.5
[illegible]	29½	145.20	Freepages	29½	-3¼	...	...
181½	140½	10.80	Furlong Homes	180		2.9	9.5
154½	62	7.21	Future Int Telep	65	-½	...	...
295	39½	17.10	GB Railways	194½	+22	...	10.3
65	37½	6.27	GF Hldgs	47½		...	...
55½	45	15.40	Gall Thomson Env	49½		3.2	10.1
16½	11½	36.50	Gander Hldgs	12½	-¾	...	...
124½	92½	94.40	Gartland W&B	108½	+1	1.9	5.1
157½	54½	148.50	Geo Int Media	148½	-3	...	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	24.70	Gold Mns Sard	19	-2	...	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	6.43	Gold Mns Sard Wts	12	-3	...	...
127½	107½	97.60	Goshawk Insce	117½	+2	1.3	...
3½	2¾	2.75	Gresmount Hldgs	2¾	...	...	...
[illegible]	0¾	1.20	Gresmount Hldgs Wts	1½	...	...	...
15½	11¼	1.77	Grosvenor Ltd	14½	...	...	...
1[illegible]	140	39.90	Guiton	171	...	3.5	12.9
[illegible]	5½	2.36	Hanson	6¼	-½	...	...
175	140	12.10	Hardy Underwtg	142	-8	1.8	31.5
80½	52½	1.42	Hat Pin	55	-½	6.2	18.2
325	275	6.65	Heartree	325	...	2.7	15.1
275	245	11.65	Heavitree A	275	...	3.2	12.8
[illegible]	57½	5.16	Helicon Pubing	87½	-5	...	...
[illegible]	110	16.70	Hercules Prop	256½	+8	1.2	...
[illegible]	105	10.70	Highbury Bd	130	...	...	18.7
157½	120½	2.92	Highland Timber	137½	+13	...	...
93	75	1.36	Holingham	79½	-10½	1.6	50.9
107½	61	2.47	Hydro-Dynamic	96½	+3½	4.7	12.2
1[illegible]	57	10.73	IES	62	-4½	1.6	...
147	134½	7.09	I S Solutions	147½	...	...	49.9
102	65½	26.35	Ind Ent Health	100	+5½	1.2	21.4
127½	55½	[illegible]	Inter Energy	125½	-1	...	...
135	65½	12.10	Inter Radio	67½	-1	...	...
162½	141½	40.50	Intrabuk Ind	162	+9½	...	...
76½	42½	14.50	Inner Assets	74½	...	...	...
125	107½	2.25	Interep As Mgt	125	...	...	...
82½	20½	4.80	Interregn Eur	20½	-1	...	...
110	75½	25.40	Internet Tech	70	-5	...	...
151½	[illegible]	21.10	Ingenuity Tele	69½	...	1.9	16.8
442½	59½	24.60	Sol Greetings	437½	...	...	...
179½	150½	46.10	IOC Int	153½	-1½	...	...
172½	150½	7.15	RG Group	171½	...		

1997 High	Low	Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
155½	57½	5.06	Jardinerie Ints Grp	57½	-3	...	21.3
153½	82½	6.29	Jasmin	153½	+11		12.8
347	290	24.40	Jennings Bros	330		2.8	21.7
4¼	3	5.19	J Lewis Hlord	3¾	+¼		18.1
62½	40	7.57	Jordec	44½	-1	...	...
5¼	1½	5.51	Just Group	2¾	-1	...	...
132½	91½	45.60	KS Biomedix	107½	-7	...	...
50½	45½	5.23	Kern River	45½		...	...
78	49½	5.60	Keystone Software	50	-1½	...	...
35	17½		Keystone Wts	19½	+1		
199½	172½	18.80	Kingfisher Ls	193½		1.3	16.1
130½	118½	5.46	Lady in Leisure	130	+7½	...	...
98	92½	4.39	Landround	97½	+3	4.2	17.2
132½	24½	8.38	La Senza	25	-1		...
150	85	17.20	Enterprises	92½	-1	5.9	...
385	340	27.60	Lawrence	395	+5	2.5	16.5
4050	3150	75.00	Lawrie Group	3950		2.4	10.3
99½	76½	7.03	Lepco	95		...	37.4
498	326	78.30	Le Riches Strs	471½		5.3	18.1
14	9	0.46	Life Numbers	9¼		...	...
4	2	0.06	Life Numbrs Wts	2		...	
535	480	9.70	Loades	485		0.3	19.3
108½	30	13.00	Loftus Road	32½		...	...
12¾	4¾	1.98	Lon & Edin Publ	6½	-½		...
85	65	2.12	London Town	85	+1	3.8	7.5
119½	112½	3.88	Longbridge Intl	117½		2.1	16.4
87½	25½	6.38	Loox	27½		...	...
3¼	1¼	3.46	Lotteryking	2		...	68.0
1	0½	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½		...	
88	38½	4.70	MMS Petroleum	38½	-3	...	...
27½	7	4.78	Magnum Power	7½		...	
338	239½	43.10	Majestic Wine	336½	+10½	1.3	23.7
19½	7½	4.50	Mann & O'seas	7½		5.4	41.5
104½	95½	27.60	Marlborough Intl	104½	+2		17.7
125	100	2.36	Matrix Hlthcare	102½		7.3	16.5
13¼	10¼	4.73	Maxx Group	12¾	-¼	2.9	11.7
26½	13½	33.50	Medisys	20	-3½	...	...
98½	66½	41.80	Megalomedia	68	-½	0.4	32.3
93½	56½	0.62	Megalomedia Wts	56½	-1	...	...
67½	39½	2.80	Meltek	40		7.8	29.5
65	22½	23.40	Memory Corp	33½	-1½	...	...
89½	70½	73.50	Metalrussia	73½	-13	...	...
165	11½	0.89	Meteor Tech	12½	-½	...	...
75	3½	0.34	Meteor Tech Wts	3½		...	...
71½	46	5.40	Methven's	63½		...	...
25	11	2.71	Metrodome	11		...	
54½	50½	21.30	Minorplanet	54	+½	...	
84½	57½	4.42	Mondas	72½	-2	...	
350	200	29.20	Moorepay	270		2.1	31.9
126½	88½	6.84	Mountcashel	90		...	
215	100½	21.00	Mulberry Group	101½	-2	1.8	17.4
40	2	0.79	MultiMedia	2¾	-½	...	...
21	15	1.13	NECA	15¼		6.1	7.8
54½	44½	19.30	NMT	49	+1½	...	...
72½	52½	1.52	NRP	52½		3.0	22.4
189½	140	18.50	NSB Retail Sys	189½	+7	0.8	73.6
285	185	16.60	NWF Grp	210		4.8	12.3
220	175	12.40	Nash (Wm)	177½		5.4	6.3
300	260	7.28	Neil Clerk	260		1.8	16.4
85½	45½	9.06	Netcall	60	-½	...	...
80½	75	1.52	Norhomes	80			24.8
50½	25	4.81	Nthn Petlm	26		...	...
47½	28½	2.99	Northstar Sec	47½	+½		
22	3	0.44	Northstar Sec Wts	22	+½		...
129½	112½	51.40	Nursing Home	129½	+6	6.1	...
10½	0¾	0.25	Omnimedia	1			...
97½	38½	1.22	On Line	37	-1		...
65½	25½	14.50	Oxford Biomedica	25½		...	...
3½	1	14.80	Pacific Media	1			
69½	25	16.40	Pan Andean Res	37½	+1		
245	220	5.76	Park Ests(Liv)	240		4.7	23.5
23¾	13	7.20	Pemberions	15	-¼	...	...
57½	29	6.59	Personal No Co	42½		...	...
148½	38½	41.00	Petra Diamonds	122½	-4	...	...
117½	13½	1.56	Petra Dmnds Wt	93½	-8	...	...
137½	21½	11.80	Philippine Gd	22½		...	...
70½	52½	11.70	Pilat Tech	54½	-1	...	12.0
138½	97½	27.00	Polymasc Pharms	135	+17½	...	
2¾	1¼	3.28	Pordum Foods	1½			44.9
1½	0½	0.22	Pordum Fds Wts	1		...	
21½	12½	11.10	Premier Asset Mgt	12¾	+¼		45.8
10½	2¾	12.20	Prestbury Leisure	9¼		0.4	37.3
590	490	9.80	Preston Nth E	490			75.0
104½	92	15.00	Primary Hlth Pr	93½	+½	4.3	28.1
590	280	92.90	Prism Rail	367	+19½	...	
85½	56½	13.30	Pycraft & Arnold	85½	+6½	...	13.7
127½	61½	11.80	Q Group	69½	-15½	...	50.7
1265	732½	230.30	Ramco Egy	762½	-7½	0.2	...
110½	77½	13.70	Raphael Zrn	92½	-5	2.7	8.4
127½	67	10.90	Recycling Servs	67½	-10	0.9	...
125	28	4.65	Reflec	37½	+1	...	...
7¼	4¼	5.57	Revelation Plc	6	-¼	2.1	7.1
45	17½	16.50	Riceman Insce	25	-4½	...	23.9
104½	74½	5.43	Romtec	104½	+2	1.8	22.4
147½	105½	10.00	SBS	141½	+3	2.1	24.9
182½	147½	17.30	SCI Ent	147½		...	13.8
42½	15¾	3.84	SEA Multimedia	15¾	-2	...	...
75½	62½	8.62	Sanbury Music	67½	-2	...	5.9
114½	104½	5.58	Savoy Asset Mgt	113½	-1	4.5	14.0
174½	139½	28.10	Science Sys	165½		1.1	24.4
12½	5½	0.80	Scotswood Inds	7½		...	...
6	3¾	9.20	Screen	4½			18.6
350	230	13.00	Scrutons	270	+10	6.0	51.1
82	42½	8.29	Selector	42½			
30½	17½	1.01	Self Sealing	17½			
177½	154½	11.90	Shellbane	167½		3.3	13.9
104½	74	4.37	Shelton (M)	82½		6.4	15.0
27½	12½	73.80	Sibir Energy	27½	+½		
270	180	33.00	Sinclair Montrs	200	-20	...	43.5
4½	2¼	7.68	Sira Bus Serv	3½		1.9	15.8
1½	1	0.24	Sira Bus Wts	1¼	...		
3¼	0¾	8.42	Snakeboard	1¼			
84½	67½	4.38	Solid State Sp	69½		5.5	24.7
192½	152½	8.69	Solitaire	180½		3.9	14.2
34½	24½	2.47	Soundtracs	24½	-1	6.1	7.3
6½	3½	5.67	South Beach Cafe	3½		...	...
793	619½	179.20	Southern News	737½		3.4	
80½	65½	15.90	Southern Vectis	80½	+7	3.3	16.7
327	173½	36.00	Stallware	297½	-20	0.4	39.0
635	92½	17.80	Stanford Rook	92½	-9		
177½	120½	14.10	Stentor	120½	-7		
70	37½		Stentor Warrants	56½	-1		
120½	77½	18.80	Style Hldgs	120	+2	1.6	14.7
155	127	14.50	Sutton Harbour	145	...	2.9	20.7
22	5	1.21	Syst Integ Rsch	9		...	...
23	15	3.27	TDS Circuits	15½			5.8
97½	38½	6.24	Theo Fennell	38½	-1½		17.4
14	5	9.00	Thomas Potts	5	-¼	2.7	15.0
37½	22½	3.66	Tom Hoskins	35½	-1	...	
158½	80	16.00	Total Office	99½	+2	6.0	6.2
675	375	33.00	TRACKER Netwk	623½	-4	...	40.0
150	55	20.00	Tradepoint Fnl	72½	-27½		
167	140	5.32	Trinity Care	140	+1½	4.5	39.8
170	170	1.50	Trinity Care Pf	170	...	5.5	...
60½	17¼	96.80	Trocadero	19			
40	38	3.48	Univent	38		...	21.0
397½	317½	6.03	Utd Auctions	335	+10	3.4	4.8
280	120	18.90	VDC	180	+5	3.6	16.7
53	45	87.20	Victory Corp	46			
242½	45	2.46	Viewinn	58½	-1½		
240	180	5.04	Voss Net	180	-20	...	...
88½	49½	25.70	Waterfall	73½	-2	...	...
35½	27	6.17	Watermark	32½	-1	3.1	10.8
7	5	7.25	Weeks Group	5½	...	2.3	9.9
115	75	3.28	West 175 Enter	80		...	...
£280	£125	10.60	West Bromwich	£145	+1000	...	
13	10½	5.62	Western Selecan	13	...		51.7
4½	4½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½			...
142½	44½	14.70	Westmount Engy	131½	-7	...	...
93½	80½	4.39	Whitecross	91¼	+1	...	...
103½	45½	9.66	Winchester	78½		...	...
197	157	34.40	World Telecom	158½	+1½	...	...
135	120	4.82	Wynnstay Props	135		4.7	13.8
12	6	4.30	Xavier Corp	7	+½	...	6.2
157½	88½	4.25	Yeoman	88½	-3		
300	215	19.80	Zergo	215			63.3
29½	6½	1.50	Zicor Mining	6½	-1		...

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.56	2.38
Austria Sch	21.85	20.19
Belgium Fr	64.32	59.36
Canada $	2.514	2.326
Cyprus Cyp£	0.911	0.839
Denmark Kr	11.87	10.98
Finland Mkk	9.51	8.76
France Fr	10.38	9.60
Germany Dm	3.13	2.88
Greece Dr	491	452
Hong Kong $	13.81	12.61
Iceland	121	101
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.10
Israel Shk	6.33	5.68
Italy Lira	3079	2842
Japan Yen	229.23	211.70
Malta	0.685	0.626
Netherlds Gld	3.530	3.235
New Zealand $	2.88	2.64
Norway Kr	12.68	11.74
Portugal Esc	315.03	293.00
S Africa Rd	8.86	7.90
Spain Pta	261.79	243.00
Sweden Kr	13.78	12.68
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.33
Turkey Lira	333457	313579
USA $	1.785	1.642

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6845 (-0.0102)
German mark
2.9711 (+0.0377)
Exchange index
105.0 (+0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3135.6 (+42.1)
FTSE 100
4831.8 (+90.0)
New York Dow Jones
7823.13 (+250.65)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16636.26 (+1553.74)

offshore investment

Revised Interest Rates

CURRENT ISSUES - EFFECTIVE 1/12/97

Account	Amount Invested	Gross %
Nova Access Offshore	£ 150,000 - £ 500,000	7.25
	£ 50,000 - £ 149,999	7.05
Monthly income available with no rate reduction on balances of £5,000 or more	£ 25,000 - £ 49,999	6.85
	£ 10,000 - £ 24,999	6.60
	£ 5,000 - £ 9,999	6.15
	£ 1,000 - £ 4,999	4.60
Nova 45 Offshore	£ 250,000 - £ 500,000	7.60
	£ 150,000 - £ 249,999	7.50
45 days notice or 45 days loss of interest	£ 50,000 - £ 149,999	7.30
	£ 25,000 - £ 49,999	7.20
(Previously Nova Ninety Offshore)	£ 10,000 - £ 24,999	7.00
	£ 5,000 - £ 9,999	6.60
Nova 120 Offshore	£ 250,000 - £ 500,000	8.05
	£ 150,000 - £ 249,999	7.85
120 days notice or 120 days loss of interest	£ 50,000 - £ 149,999	7.65
Nova Star Offshore. No withdrawals in first year - 90 days notice thereafter (for instant access with 90 days loss of interest). Only one investment per account	£ 5,000 - £ 500,000	Annual 7.70 / Monthly 7.45

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House prices face the broom cupboard test

There are two reliable indicators of the top of the housing market. The first is when ordinary middle class couples talk of having to buy a property for their children for fear of them never being able to afford to buy one themselves. The second is the appearance of the comet-like story that a former broom cupboard in Knightsbridge has just fetched a good price as a mini studio flat.

The first indicator has been flashing amber for most of this year. Last week the broom cupboard story came round again. For me, that settled it. Next year, the rate of house price inflation is going to be lower. And in central London we may see absolute price falls.

You do not have to believe in my broom cupboard indicator to reach this conclusion. There is beginning to be evidence of a changing trend in the various official measures of house prices. The Nationwide index shows house price inflation having fallen from 12.9 per cent to 11.6 per cent, while the Halifax shows it at 5½ per cent, down from 7 per cent.

Moreover, an easing off is understandable. After all, there have now been four rises in interest rates since the election and it looks as though there may be more. Meanwhile, bit by bit, the value of mortgage interest tax relief has been whittled down. At the top end of the market, of course, particularly in central London, mortgage rates are hardly the issue. But there is something else that is turning the market there, namely the apparent change of trend in equity markets — and their downright collapse in the Far East. Given that central London prices have risen strongly in sterling terms, when translated into foreign currency terms through the super-strong pound, they have shot up. Speculative buying of central London property from the Far East could now turn to selling.

ROGER BOOTLE

Yet if we really have seen the top of this housing cycle, though understandable, this is remarkable. In the past, the peak of the cycle has been at much higher rates of price rise. At the top of the early 1970s boom, house prices were rising at an annual rate of 40 per cent. At the end of that decade, and again at the end of the 1980s, house price inflation topped out at 30 per cent. By these standards, recent rates look pretty feeble.

Moreover, according to the prevailing values of the last few decades, houses currently look cheap — as many an estate agent will tell you. After all, the ratio of average house prices to average earnings has been just under 3.5 over 40 years. It now stands at less than 3. Furthermore, houses are not only cheap, but relatively affordable. Even after recent rises, mortgage rates are still only 8½ per cent, a rate that would have seemed attractively low not that many years ago.

Yet experience should teach us to beware estate agents bearing gifts. When you compare mortgage rates now with mortgage rates even ten years ago, never mind back in the 1970s, you are comparing apples with pears. It is inflation that makes the difference. Rampant inflation sharply reduces the real cost of borrowing.

In 1975, inflation reached 27 per cent. In 1980 it peaked at over 20 per cent, and at the end of the Lawson boom exceeded 10 per cent. At the latest count, it stands at 3.7 per cent on the headline measure, 2.8 per cent underlying. Meanwhile, average earnings are rising at 4.25 per cent — hardly enough to overwhelm a monster mortgage in one fell swoop.

The change in the inflation environment also undermines the argument that houses are cheap in relation to earnings. For why did people value houses, on average, at 3.5 times their gross earnings? Part of the answer is the development of an investment culture in the housing market.

Largely as a result of the sustained rises in house prices, people spoke of "getting a foot on the ladder" or "jumping on the bandwagon". Accordingly, people bought earlier, bought more, bought bigger, and hung on to more property than they would have done without the belief that "you can't lose in property". Many thought of continually rising house prices as an essential part of economic life. Some of the beneficiaries even saw it as part of their birthright — an officially sanctioned and tax-subsidised way of making money, supposedly without risk. If you like, it was the ordinary man's Lloyd's. That is why the early 1990s collapse gave rise to widespread bewilderment and anger.

For many people, seeing large falls in house prices in the early 1990s was an appalling shock. That experience may finally have put paid to the idea that houses are a risk-free investment, but still the bulls — and the estate agents — cling on to the idea that, come the upswing of the cycle, it would be back to the good old days. If my reading of the broom cupboard indicator is correct, they will soon be disabused.

Don't get me wrong. Given that people will almost certainly want to spend more on housing as they get richer, and given the shortage of building land in Britain, house prices will probably rise over time — even in real terms. Owner-occupation remains attractive. But people should expect nothing like the booms that we have had three times in the last 25 years. And with continued low inflation, in the downswings it will be normal for house prices to fall. The new economic era extends even to the Englishman's castle.

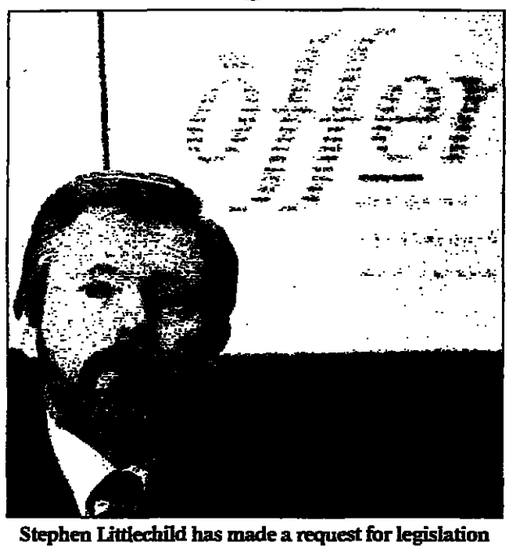
Beckett must be bold in reforming the regulators

Utilities law needs action now to avoid predictable problems, says Dieter Helm

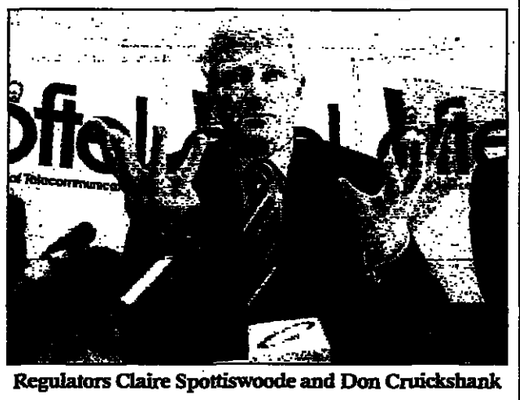
After Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, announced the Department of Trade and Industry's review of utility regulation in the summer, share prices rose.

Investors and political commentators concluded that the review spelt the death-knell of Labour's more radical reform plans. The review would buy time, and, by 1998, the manifesto commitments could be quietly buried. A Green Paper by Christmas and then more consultations, with only the distant prospect of legislation, appeared to many to be the strategy.

Such complacency, if it materialised, would have its costs. Events, not policy, will end up driving the agenda. With the Green Paper already delayed until January or February, the pressures are beginning to mount. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the bid by PacifiCorp for the Energy Group sits on Mrs Beckett's desk. Stephen Littlechild has asked for legislation to split the regional electricity companies' distribution and supply businesses, while the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions is pressing for environmental duties to be placed on regulators. Pressure is also mounting to do something for poorer customers.



Stephen Littlechild has made a request for legislation



Regulators Claire Spottiswoode and Don Cruickshank

There is also the predictable coal crisis, raising issues about licensing policy, the use of levies to support research and development and, more generally, the role of government in determining the final mix.

Further out, Mrs Beckett will have to decide what to do about the mounting problems with the introduction of competition into the electricity market, which Ministers have (perhaps foolishly) taken responsibility for. Appointments also need to be made, and candidates will no doubt want to know what it is that they will be supposed to regulate. A successor is needed for Don Cruickshank at Oftel (and a response to his demand for an Ofcom to regulate communications more generally). Claire Spottiswoode's term of office ends in November 1998, and Professor Littlechild's in 1999.

Finally, there is the fact that at around the year 2000 most of the utilities will have their prices set again. For water and for electricity distribution, this could either be a price cut or increased environmental and social expenditure — money in consumers' pockets or what would otherwise be public expenditure goodies, all in time for the next general election. It would be surprising if politicians would want to leave such sensitive issues solely in the hands of the regulators when an election is beckoning.

The political choice is stark: either address the regulatory framework now, and introduce the necessary legislation in the autumn of 1998, or let events wash over the DTI. In addition to political considerations, the public-interest merits of the former are considerable: Offer and Ofgas can be merged, the environmental/social/economic trade-off can be set, and the relationship between policy and implementation can be sorted out.

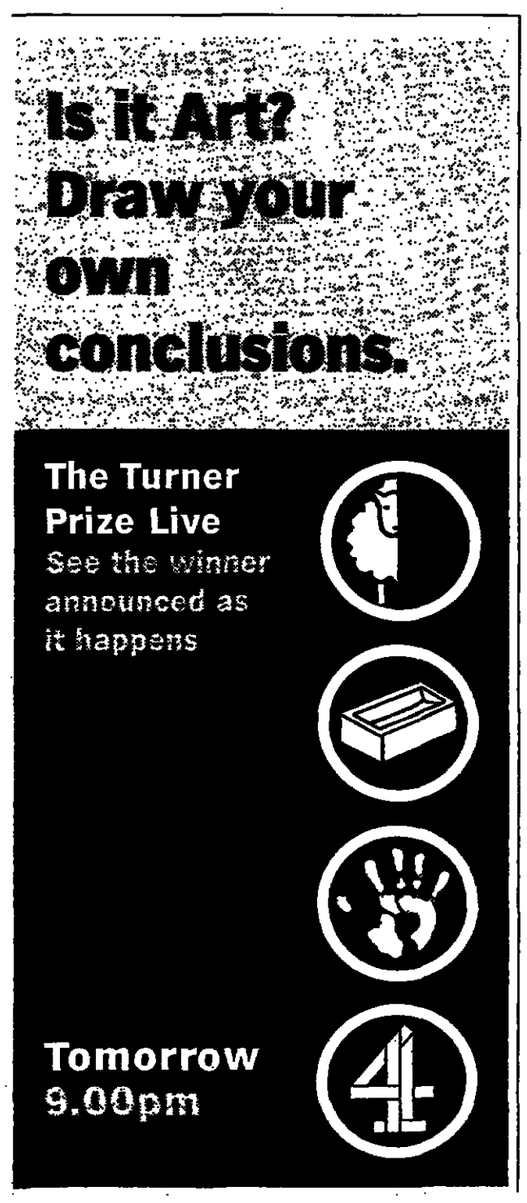
Failure to act now risks a rerun of the dispute over prison policy during the Conservative Government — the Derek Lewis affair that so upset Michael Howard's term as Home Secretary: politicians are in charge of policy until it goes wrong, and then it is the regulators' fault. It is hard to see Mrs Beckett and John Battle, the Industry, Energy and Science Minister, emerging unscathed from events that can already be predicted and which raise major public policy issues, unless a proactive position is taken.

It is not just politics at stake. Failure to define the rules has left the City uncertain, and the inevitable and necessary restructuring of the utility industry inherited from 40 years in the public sector has been put on hold. Most worrying of all, the regulatory uncertainty has left the UK with one of the highest costs of capital for utilities among developed countries. This affects the choice of investment, biasing it to the short term, and the price consumers and industry must pay.

The trouble with the reform agenda is that it needs a legislative slot, and that probably depends upon John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, putting his weight behind a utilities Bill — and bringing in water and the railways. On the telecoms front, widening the domain is also complex since broadcasting is covered by its own laws.

To take the bold path, however, Mrs Beckett has to decide what she wants. Difficult questions require answers bound to offend some interested parties. Past dithering in this area by the Conservatives does not augur well — but waiting upon events may prove costly in the longer term.

The author is a Fellow of New College, Oxford, and Director of Oxford Economic Research Associates Limited



WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 30

ASHPLANT

(b) To flog with an ashplant, a sapling of the ash tree, used as a walking-stick, whip or goad. George Bernard Shaw, *Doctors' Delusions*, 1923: "Nothing will persuade me that any boy really likes being kicked and ashplanted into doing the drudgery of a professional footballer."

EXODONTIA

(b) The extraction of teeth. An exodontist is, accordingly, a dentist. From the Greek for "out + tooth". 1927: "The development of skill in inducing anaesthesia has made it possible to perform the oftimes intricate phases of exodontia in such a manner as to grant the patient freedom from the sensation of pain."

GONGORA

(c) A plant or flower of the genus of tropical American orchids so named. An eponym from Don Antonio Caballero y *Góngora* (floruit 1782), Viceroy of New Granada. "The gongoras have a quaintness that is attractive, but the species are of little value except as curiosities."

COMITADJI

(b) In the Balkans, a member of a band of (especially Bulgarian) irregular soldiers or partisans. A common Balkan form adapted from the Turkish *komitaci*, French *comité* committee + *-dji* a member of a committee. "A violent rivalry now began between various national bands of comitadjis, the most powerful being the famous Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nxg5+! hxg5 2 Rh1+ Kg8 3 Rxg6+ Kf7 4 Rg7+ Ke6 5 Rh6+ mating

TELEVISION CHOICE

Painting to order

Date with an Artist
BBC2, 7.30pm

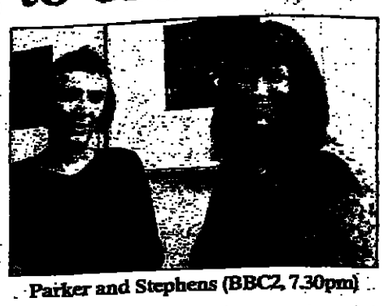
A series which might do something to demistify contemporary art challenges young British artists to produce new works for selected patrons. Enter, for the first such exercise, Cornelia Parker, no respecter of the orthodox and shortlisted for the Turner Prize. Her date is with Rebecca Stephens, better known as the first British woman to climb Everest than as a connoisseur of art. But this meeting of apparently different minds proves harmonious and leads the two women to the Whispering Gallery of St Paul's Cathedral, to the consternation of Parker, who has no head for heights. The resultant artworks are predictably unexpected. Tonight's other pairing is Andrew Gifford, a painter who specialises in landscapes of his native Teesside, and Dave Allan, PR manager of Middlesbrough Football Club.

Land of the Tiger
BBC2, 8.30pm

There are no tigers in Valmik Thapar's latest quest for Indian wildlife but, as he leaves the mainland for the surrounding oceans, you would not expect any. There are plenty of compensations. The camerawork gleams even more brightly than usual as it brings us coral reefs and blizzards of vividly coloured fish and a totally unexpected sequence of elephants swimming furiously underwater. Their day job is hauling timber and a dip in the sea is a perfect way of cooling-off. Tuna fishing provides more spectacular footage as no fewer than 91 fish are landed in just over four minutes. The film saves its best until last and even if you have seen it before in wildlife programmes, the sight of thousands of baby turtles emerging from their eggs on a beach at night and rushing towards the sea is still one of nature's great events.

Pantoland
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The putting-on-a-pantomime series moves to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton where the Christmas attraction is *Snow White*, with Lionel Blair, John Inman and Britt Ekland. Happily for the production but unfortunately for the film, backstage spats are in short supply. Apart, that is, from the matter of Ekland's costume. Surprisingly, perhaps, for somebody who has never been shy about such things before, she complains that it is too revealing. The crux of the debate, funny if it were not so earnest, is whether there should be a split up the side to show the Ekland legs. The old pros, Blair in his 25th panto and Inman (incredibly) his 39th, have no such problems. They have been there before, know every pantomime routine ever invented and have absolutely no problem with dressing up in silly clothes.



Parker and Stephens (BBC2, 7.30pm)

Equinox: Mindreaders
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Autism Awareness Week is the cue for a searching look at a condition which causes its victims to live in an alien world able to engage with bodies but not with minds. Happily, autism need not be a barrier to a successful life. Temple Grandin is America's most famous autistic and typical in having few friends and no romantic attachments and being able to empathise more easily with books than people. This has not stopped her becoming a university professor in animal sciences, with a reputation for designing humane abattoirs and stockyards. The programme also reveals that autism in a mild and often unrecognised form may help to explain unsocial behaviour in apparently normal people. What nobody seems to know is why autism is ten times more common in boys than girls. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Monday Play: The Trick is to Keep Breathing
Radio 4, 7.45pm

The publicity describes this play as "An extraordinary account of one woman's descent into mental breakdown" and the description is no more than the truth. Certainly the story is out of the ordinary: it centres on a teacher, Joy, whose life is wrenched out of its groove and sent into freefall by bereavement. Then there is the manner of the story's telling, which uses three actresses for the part of Joy, a device which has the most tremendous dramatic effect as aspects of Joy's tortured recollection overlap each other. The play is based on a novel by Janice Galloway. It was adapted for the stage by Michael Boyd who has also adapted it for radio. Siobhan Redmond, Jennifer Black and Eddi Reader play Joy.

Composer of the Week: Cole Porter
Radio 3, Midday

Only those with short memories will think that the choice of Porter as *Composer of the Week* reflects a plunge down market at Radio 3: the network has not, at least in modern times, been afraid to showcase the best popular music. Paul Guinery takes charge, all week, of this voyage through the best of Porter, a by no means typical American composer who came from a wealthy background and studied at the Harvard Law School before deciding on a career in music, in pursuit of which he studied in Paris. During the 1920s he made several attempts to write for Broadway shows but was rejected and it was not until the next decade that the breakthrough came when he wrote the wistfully upbeat *Anything Goes*. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley, includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session **8.30** Live Music Update **8.40** Andy Kershaw **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Pam Rhodes **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Malcolm Laycock with Big Band Era and Dance Band Days **9.00** Big Band Special **9.30** Hayes Over Britain **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Sportstrack, Music and sporting memories from 1971 **8.00** The Monday Match. Commentary on Bolton v Newcastle United from the Reebok Stadium **10.00** News Talk with Nick Robinson **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00 (FM)** Robin Banks **(AM)** Graham Dene **1.00pm (FM)** Nick Abbot **(MW)** Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00 (FM)** Paul Coyte **(AM)** Celmin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Grass Is Singing **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Youth Debate **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Founders of their Faith **9.30** Westway Access **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Omnibus **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Jazzamatazz **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Seven Days **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Options **3.00** World News; (648 only) News in German **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Westway Access **3.30** The Ed Stewart Show **4.00** News **4.15** Seven Days **4.30** The World Today; (648 only) News in German **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Just a Minute; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Multitrack Hit List **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Northern Lights **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack Hit List **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Westway **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Seven Days **1.45** Poems by Post **2.00** Newsday **2.30** On Screen **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** What Do Christians Believe? **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey with the Morning March and Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly with The Classic Masterpiece and Record of the Week **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Chopin (Piano Concerto No 2 in F minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes Three Steps to Seven **6.30** Newsnight **7.00** Smooth Classics. A new series presented by John Brunning **8.00** Evening Concert. Delius (A Mass of Life). With Joan Rodgers, soprano, Nigel Robson, tenor, Peter Coleman-Wright, baritone, the Waynflete Singers, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Richard Hickox **10.00** Michael Mappin. Includes at **11.35** Nocturne **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Mozart (Piano Sonata in F); Nielsen (Helios Overture); Rossini (Overture The Silken Ladder); Telemann (Concerto in D for Three Trumpets).
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Haydn (Symphony No 1 in D); Schumann (String Quartet in A minor); Fauré (L'Horizon Chimérique); Strauss (Waltzes, Der Rosenkavalier, Acts 1 and 2)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines in Birmingham. Purcell, arr Tippett (Music for a While; Sweeter than Roses); Chopin (Ballade No 4); Mendelssohn (String Quartet No 2 in A minor); Purcell (Raise the Voice, Ode to St Cecilia's Day); Chopin (Polonaise in E flat minor); Tippett (Boyhood's End); Chopin (Piano Sonata No 3)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Cole Porter, with Paul Guinery. See Choice
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Barry Douglas, piano, Michael Collins, clarinet, Timothy Lines, clarinet, Michael Harris, bass clarinet, David Alberman, violin, Levine Andrade, viola, Paul Watkins, cello, under Lionel Friend. Zemlinsky (Clarinet Trio); Schoenberg (Suite)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins, with Lynda Russell, soprano. Moeran (Sinfonietta); Britten (Les Illuminations); Mahler (Symphony No 4)
4.00 Music Matters Public Forum. Ivan Hewett chairs a public debate from West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge, on the future of opera and music theatre. With guest panellists Keith Cooper, of Royal Opera House; Phyllida Lloyd, from Scottish Opera; Michael McCarthy, representing Music Theatre Wales; and the opera critic and author Tom Sutcliffe (r)
4.45 Music Machine. Verity Sharp takes a look at how composers are commissioned to write music
5.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. Music includes works by Delibes, Thomas Tallis and Benjamin Britten, to celebrate the beginning of Advent. Plus the marimba-playing Safri duo visit the studio
7.30 Performance on 3: Prokofiev Festival (Sounding the Century). Humphrey Carpenter introduces a series of concerts celebrating the breadth of Prokofiev's genius. Nikolai Demidenko, piano, London Philharmonic Orchestra under Alexander Lazarev. Prokofiev (Andante, arr from Piano Sonata No 4; Piano Concerto No 5; Suite: Summer Night, The Duenna; Symphony No 3)
9.15 Postscript: Ashes and Phoenixes (Sounding the Century). Stephen Johnson looks at the role music played in the regeneration of Germany after the Second World War (1/4)
9.35 Schubert. Mayumi Seiler, violin, and Caroline Palmer, piano. Schubert (Violin Sonata in A minor)
10.00 Voices. Iain Burnside presents a selection of songs on the theme of marriage
10.45 Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall present a blend of musical styles and influences
11.30 Composer of the Week: Massenet (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Another chance to hear a set by Cuff Billet's New Europa Jazz Band
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today. Includes Thought for the Day **8.45** Perhaps, Prime Minister. Howell James and George Bridges reflect on the last three years of the Conservative government **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with the *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg
10.00 (LW) News; Daily Service
10.00 (FM) News; Dear Diary. The actor Chris Harris records the preparations for his one-man show in Vietnam in aid of the country's street children (3/6)
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Money Box Live. Personal finance news presented by Vincent Duggleby
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Wildbrain. Lionel Kelleway presents the sixth regional heat of the wildlife quiz **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Hand in Glove. The final part of Stephen Mulrine's play set in 1920s Stirling. With Paul Young and Martyn James (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker sees Peter Brook's production of Samuel Beckett's play *Oh Les Beaux Jours* and finds out what's going on in pantoland this Christmas
4.45 Short Story: Music from the Past, by David T.K. Wong, read by Dan Maxwell
5.00 PM, with Clare English and Chris Lowe **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue, with Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden, Tim Brooke-Taylor and Willy Hawks (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme. An in-depth look at the food business with Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 Monday Play: The Trick is to Keep Breathing. See Choice
9.15 Better Than Sex. A series in which writers explore an experience which brings them pleasure. This week: Meetings with Pelicans by Howard Jacobson (1/4) (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another Time, Another Place, by Jessie Kesson. Abridged by Giles McCabe, read by Vicki Masson (8/10)
11.00 (FM) At the Shoulder of History. John Miller talks to Valentin Berezhkov, who interpreted for Stalin (3/5) (r)
11.00 (LW) Education Matters, with David Waller
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Death on the Nile. Michael Bakewell's dramatisation of Agatha Christie's classic novel (1/5) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Metroland. Julian Barnes reads his first novel, abridged by Georgina Brown (1/10) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198. (12.45-5.00am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomas, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

هكذا من الأصل

Royalty rules in the comedy drama stakes

Together, in *Reckless*, Robson Green and Francesca Annis enjoyed one of the great popular successes of 1997. Apart, this weekend, they didn't have too bad a time of it either, with Green coming out the narrow winner because his comedy drama was ten minutes shorter and dim royalty provided a more accessible comic resonance than rural France.

For a worrying few minutes, however, as **The Student Prince** (BBC1, Saturday) got under way, that resonance felt distinctly uncomfortable. A tall, blond, handsome-ish Prince newly arrived at Cambridge University... It looked like yet another television drama overtaken by real events. But as my brain rehearsed the "is it too soon?" argument, all gradually became clear.

Lee Hall's drama was not based in the near future at all, but in the reasonably near past. Its structure may have been borrowed from *Cyrano de Bergerac*, its ending from *Casablanca*, but the basic plot was pure Prince Edward — right down to the unnatural fondness for the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Let's hope that the chief executive of Ardent Productions had something better to do on Saturday night.

Hall's particular success was not the humour or the romance (both of which were fine) but the way our disbelief was so delicately suspended. If you questioned the lack of deference in Green's royal protection officer, you questioned it once only. As a dramatic device it worked. If this Mr Windsor wanted to head north for a weekend of Newcastle ale and a kip in his policeman's spare room: fine.

As Barry Grimes, Green did enough to convince the ITV bosses who recently lavished £1.5 million on an exclusive contract for his services that their money was well spent, while Tara Fitzgerald, as the beautiful American academic with whom both Prince and protection officer fell in love, was her customary good value. But amid a sea of distinguished character actors playing cameos (Richard Briers, Stephen Moore, Terence Rigby) the real star was Rupert Penry-Jones as the academically challenged Prince. It would have been so easy to turn him into a two-dimensional comic stooge, but Penry-Jones's cleverly judged performance produced a character who may have been a tiara or two short of the Crown Jewels but was still touchingly human underneath. Thank heaven he got a girl in the end, too.

By the end of **Deadly Summer** (Channel 5), neither Francesca Annis nor Pauline Quirke still had a husband, which may count as giving the plot away but, with a title like that, surely not. You knew we were not going to finish with as many characters as we began.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

In truth, we didn't have many characters in the first place. What we had in abundance was caricatures. We were in a France generously populated with mad old soothsayers, inbred youths and Gauloise-smoking policemen, where your kind neighbour brings you a goose as a present and then wrings its neck while you are eating. But we were also in a France where British men were either gullible oafs, who wore socks with their shorts, or fraudulent chauvinists, who wore thong knickers under theirs.

This was bad news for Nicholas Farrell and Bob Peck, respectively cast as the above, and better news for Quirke and Annis, who played in very different ways their equally downtrodden wives. Annis was the bullied trophy-wife ("I coveted his Aston Martin, he coveted my arse") and Quirke was the bullied, non-trophy wife who wore nylon nighties. Mind you, it was Linda (Quirke) who slept with the goose-strangling neighbour, after a chat-up routine that smacked of too many Cointreau ads. "No, not Régis. It's Rrrrrrégis."

With Farrell and Peck forced into noisy caricature and slightly laboured comedy, Berny Stringle and Jackie Robb's enjoyable but underweight script offered Quirke and Annis rather more in the way of acting opportunities. Both grabbed them, with Quirke slowly increasing the volume as Linda found empowerment through her affair and the fact that she knew what to do after Celia (Annis) accidentally dispatched Donald (Peck) with a heavily tossed *boule*. As for Annis, she clearly enjoyed the reverse process, going to pieces in a flurry of red lace and size-10 bottom jokes.

What size bottom Ben Zander, the conductor, had in mind when he coined the phrase "one buttock playing". I don't know. But I do know that neither Zander, whose evangelical teaching methods provided the subject for **The Works** (BBC2) on Saturday, nor Steve Bochco, whose pivotal drama career in American television was profiled for last night's **South Bank Show** (ITV), would have reckoned much to either *The Student Prince* or *Deadly Summer*. A double dose of whimsy is just not them.

What they do best, we learnt or were reminded, was bold. Bochco, creator of *Hill Street Blues*, *LA Law* and *Murder One*, has broken so many moulds so quickly that it defies belief. It's only 17 years since, as a humble employee of MTM, he and Michael Kozoll came up with the idea of *Hill Street Blues*.

If he did so after listening to one of Zander's lectures (more a performance, really) I wouldn't be a bit surprised. Apart from being an inspirational music teacher and conductor, Zander is the sort of "seize the day, live on one buttock" merchant that everyone except management training colleges remain suspicious of in this country. That was why most of Ken Howard's film was shot in America (where they love him) and why I wasn't totally won over.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (59975)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (82802)
9.00 Good Living (1523826)
9.25 Style Challenge (1502333)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (2240623)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (1027888)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (8019062)
11.35 Change That (3235913)
12.00 News (T) (9759420)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (2960913)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (5633401)
1.00 News (T) and weather (16449)
1.30 Regional News and weather (17702642)
1.40 The Weather Show (86606401)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (T) (72025975)
2.05 Quincy (r) (1329265)
2.55 Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank (2065536)
3.30 Playdays (r) (7069710) **3.50** Enchanted Lands (8546739) **4.00** Roald Dahl's Revolting Recipes (7063130) **4.15** Noah's Island (T) (3680197) **4.40** Goosebumps (6104333) **5.00** Newsround (T) (9131771) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (6665159)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (853159)
6.00 News (T) and weather (8)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (20)
7.00 This Is Your Life (T) (2710)
7.30 Here and Now A look at the debate about the rights of people with learning difficulties to have children (T) (84)
8.00 EastEnders (T) (8130)
8.30 Spark Ashley finds himself the object of maneater Ursula Craig's voracious desires (T) (7265)
9.00 News (T) and weather (3807)
9.30 Hotel The management of Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel face industrial action from the overworked cleaners and a dispute with a couple refusing to vacate the bridal suite (T) (37081)
10.00 Panorama: Greenhouse Wars A report on the battle pitting American industrial giants against the world's scientific and environmental community (T) (164197)
10.40 On Side John Inverdale meets Tim Henman, John McEnroe, Linford Christie and Bobby Robson (T) (959352)
11.30 Film '97 with Barry Norman Includes reviews of Glenn Close and Pauline Collins in *Paradise Road*; *Cop Land*, with Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta and Harvey Keitel and *The Borrowers*, with John Goodman, Jim Broadbent and Celia Imrie. Plus: an interview with the Spice Girls (91642) **WALES: 11.30** Social Action Week 1997 (841517) **11.35** Film '97 (519933) **12.05am** FILM To Sleep with Anger (547840) **1.40** Weather **1.45** BBC News 24
12.00 To Sleep with Anger (1990) with Danny Glover and Paul Butler. A black family move from the Deep South to Los Angeles to start a new life, but the reappearance of an old friend stirs up trouble. Directed by Charles Burnett (555869)
1.35am Weather (7666869)
1.40 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.00am Education: The Sordid Subject of Boeuf Bourguignon (97064) **6.30** Putting Training to Work (79420)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (3535710)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (2722710) **7.40** The Perils of Penelope Pitstop (r) (8182371) **8.05** Blue Peter (r) (T) (9468517) **8.25** Juniper Jungle (r) (2212062) **8.35** Orville and Cuddles (r) (9397159) **8.45** Harry and the Hendersons (r) (T) (7791848) **9.10** Spanish Globo (3534826) **9.15** Clementine (6353178) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (T) (9058536) **9.45** Storytime (9046791) **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (60772) **10.30** Words and Pictures (5252352) **10.45** Watch (5257807) **11.00** Look and Read: Spywatch (9922284) **11.20** Zig Zag (T) (1787536) **11.40** Landmarks (T) (4119517) **12.00** Urban Scotland (8363265) **12.20pm** Job Bank (9768178)
12.30 Working Lunch (22159) **1.00** The Greedysaurus Gang (r) (33226284) **1.05** Harry Jeremy (r) (33225555)
1.10 The History Hour from Guildford in Surrey (2793062) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (64976159) **2.40** News (T) (7122178) **2.45** Clash of the Titans: The 1988 FA Cup Final — Liverpool v Wimbledon (r) (T) (5262807) **3.25** News (T) (2018046) **3.30** The Village (r) (6)
4.00 Ready Steady Cook (33) **4.30** Through the Keyhole (r) (2957807) **4.55** Esther: What is Love? (5336333) **5.30** Today's the Day (7)
6.00 The Simpsons (T) (876536)
6.25 Battlestar Galactica (r) (T) (873710)
7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show (r) (T) (230130)
7.30 CHOICE **A Date with an Artist** Twelve artists are commissioned to produce new works of art (T) (46)
8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Reducing the risk of heart disease; advice on dealing with food poisoning; and the arguments for and against pregnant mothers being screened for HIV (T) (6772)

Mother and baby elephant (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **Land of the Tiger: Unknown Seas** The animals living off the coral reefs in the Bay of Bengal, including whale sharks, devil rays and a herd of swimming elephants (T) (690555)
9.20 Trade Secret Handy hints from the world of equestrianism (520246)
9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (r) (T) (35623)
10.00 I'm Alan Partridge (96246)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (124739) **11.15** Oldie TV (459197) **11.55** Weather **12.00** Midnight Hour (13050)
12.30am Learning Zone: Edwina Currie (6920869) **12.45** Leaders and Dictators (6559258) **1.35** Richard II (8575444) **2.00** Schools: English (63753) **4.00** Languages: Greek and French (23395) **5.00** Business and Training (74869)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2018284)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (1511081)
9.55 Regional News (T) (7364623)
10.00 The Time, the Place (97826)
10.30 This Morning (T) (97856913)
12.20 pm Regional News (9755604)
12.30 News (T) and weather (5669826)
12.55 The Fashion Police (T) (5644517) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (73980178) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (9356284) **2.40** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (r) (T) (5250062)
3.20 News (T) (1563951)
3.25 Regional News (2913492)
3.30 Tots TV (2496081) **3.40** The Slow Norris (8535623) **3.50** Wolves, Witches and Giants (2407197) **4.05** Sooty and Co (3655401) **4.25** Men in Black (3671449) **4.50** How 2 (6128913)
5.10 WALES: The House (r) (T) (9638197)
5.10 We Are Seven (9638197)
5.40 News (T) and weather (956915)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (863062)
6.25 Regional Weather (772371)
6.30 Regional News (88)
7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers (4178)
7.30 Coronation Street It is siege time for Des and Samantha. Jack steps into Ken's escort shoes and finds himself in hot water (T) (72)
8.00 World in Action In-car cameras capture the frustrations of drivers on the M40 and A40 in West London, Britain's fifth largest weekday jam (T) (3826)
8.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich (T) (2333)

Meredith and Ashbourne (9.00pm)

9.00 Gold: Tainted Love In the conclusion of the series, Charlie (Ifan Meredith) lures Lisa (Jayne Ashbourne) into prostitution; Rose realises that the murdered prostitute's killer is still at large (T) (5517)
10.00 News (T) and weather (83772)
10.30 Regional News (834807)
10.40 WALES: Welsh Woman of the Year 97 (699468)
10.40 Nash Bridges: Inside Out Joe goes undercover in prison to gain valuable information on a ruthless Mexican gang leader (T) (699468)
11.40 WALES: Nash Bridges: Inside Out See above for details (525604)
11.40 Highlander: Unholy Alliance Macleod tracks his enemy to Paris (525604)
12.40am Football Extra (8799802)
1.40 War of the Worlds (r) (7453024)
2.35 Rockmania (r) (5825685)
3.30 God's Gift (r) (6993005)
4.25 Phenomena (24336024)
4.35 World in Action (r) (T) (79443260)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (46482)
5.30 News (63555)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (5644517)
1.50 Blue Heelers (4871975)
2.50-3.20 High Road (4374913)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9638197)
6.25-7.00 Central News (138159)
11.40 Charlie Grace (816468)
12.35am Football Extra (8790531)
1.35 Late and Loud (6617111)
2.35 Curtis Calls (3803111)
2.40 Film: Between the Darkness and the Dawn (522173)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (58717869)
4.50 Eastern Mix (79455005)
5.20 Asian Eye (4859821)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (5644517)
1.25 High Road (20189361)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (4889994)
2.50-3.20 Gardener's Diary (4374913)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9638197)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (27604)
10.30 Westcountry News (825159)
10.45 Nash Bridges (675888)
11.40 New York News (525604)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (5644517)
1.50 Countdown to Christmas (5468468)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (1325449)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9638197)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (36)
6.30-7.00 Perfectly Pets (88)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (825159)
10.45 Nash Bridges (675888)
11.40 The Golf Show (664802)
12.10am Meridian Motorsport (5412647)
5.00 Freescreen (46482)

ANGLIA

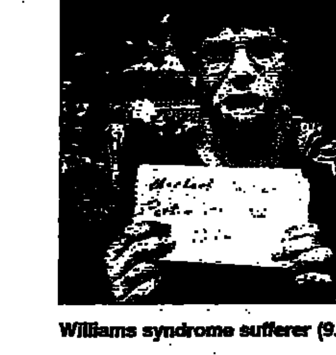
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (5644517)
1.55 Homemaker (28536028)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (1325449)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9638197)
6.23 Anglia Weather (740772)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (138159)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (921371)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (825159)
10.45 Is That It? (529159)
11.15 Nash Bridges (912081)
12.10am Fair Cops (5412647)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (99772) **9.00 Ysgolion** (521420) **11.30 The Pulse** (2410) **12.00 Right to Reply** (13913) **12.30pm Montel Williams** (40555) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (50823178) **1.15 Miffi** (50811333) **1.30 Against Nature** (37710) **2.30 Raging Planet** (40664) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (94) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (71) **4.30 Coltrane's Planes and Automobiles** (3) **5.00 5 Pump** (9535352) **5.15 Ffeil** (4228206) **5.30 Countdown** (65) **6.00 Newyddion** (236994) **6.10 Heno** (629826) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (991739) **7.25 Diwrnod Aids Y Byd** (5293555) **8.30 Newyddion** (9325) **9.00 Diwrnod Aids Y Byd** (3159) **10.00 Sgorio** (6246) **11.00 The Real Holiday Show** (449710) **11.40 The American Football Big Match** (148352) **12.55am-1.55 Arthouse** (8711024)

CHANNEL 4

5.45am Sesame Street (75913)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (99772)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (T) (1516536) **9.25** Schools at Work (3524449) **9.30** Geography Junction (T) (9043604) **9.45** Book Box (T) (9048159) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (9557888) **10.15** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (9570739) **10.30** Place and People (T) (6606517) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (2971449) **11.00** Living and Growing (T) (1778888) **11.15** The Mix (T) (1791739)
11.30 The Pulse (r) (T) (2410) **12.00** Sesame Street (13913) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (36081) **1.30** Pat and Mat (66633555)
1.35 House of Strangers (1949, b/w) with Edward G. Robinson. A drama about a powerful banker in conflict with his four sons. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (T) (36079246)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (94) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (71) **4.30** Countdown (T) (2942975) **4.55** Montel Williams (T) (5321401) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (65)
6.00 Home Improvement American comedy starring Tim Allen (T) (78)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (30)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (373555)
7.55 Writing About Art A short piece about a work shortlisted for the Turner Prize (668159)
8.00 Movers and Shakers: Dream Contract The series on indoor games focuses on bridge. Alison Myeroff's passion for the game which requires both skill and patience has totally taken over her family (4/6) (T) (1468)
8.30 CHOICE **Pantoland: Snow White** Series about the pleasures and pains of the pantomime industry. E and B's production in Southampton starring John Inman and Lionel Blair, who also directs, runs into trouble when fellow star Britt Ekland complains about her costume (2/4) (T) (9325)



Williams syndrome sufferer (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Equinox: Mindreaders** An examination of autism and a comparison with Williams syndrome, which impairs intelligence but not sociability (T) (3159)
10.00 Cracker Drama series starring Robbie Coltrane as a clinical psychologist. Two young lovers murder a loan shark after the woman's parents refuse to lend the money their daughter owes. With Susan Lynch and Andrew Tiernan (r) (T) (3607587)
11.05 Armstrong and Miller Comedy sketch series (424401)
11.40 The American Football Big Match (148352)
12.55am Trans World Sport (r) (8711024)
1.55 Football Italia (r) (46571395)
4.00 Schools: Geographical Eye (753802) **5.40** IT in English (6553937)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (4716371)
7.30 Milkshake! (7096130) **7.35** Kablam! (9688623) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (8451997)
8.30 WideWorld A series on the Victorian world (2/10) (9801438)
9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine presented by Pattie Coldwell and Tony Kerner (7550623)
10.00 Exclusive (r) (4915062)
10.30 Pole Stars (r) (T) (9906082)
11.00 Leeza American chat show (3834284) **11.50** Double Espresso (90490555) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (5201474) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (1016420)
1.00 5 News Update (88358710) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (4609642) **2.00** 5's Company. Live entertainment show (3804420)

Audie Murphy as Destry (3.30pm)

3.30 Destry (1955) starring Audie Murphy and Mari Blanchard. Western about a young man who cleans up a lawless town. Directed by George Marshall (9003536)
5.20 5's Company — Late Extra (56360517)
5.30 Whittle Audience participation game show (T) (4272284)
6.00 100 Per Cent (4279197)
6.30 Family Affairs Chris and Annie continue to argue about Holly (T) (4260449)
7.00 Exclusive Showbusiness news with Julia Bradbury (5621062)
7.30 Dwellers of the Deep: Big Brommie The coral of the Great Barrier Reef (T) (4259333)
8.00 Period Rooms Two teams compete to create an Edwardian music room (T) (5630710)
8.30 5 News (T) (5626517)
9.00 The Sweeney: Nightmare Vintage Flying Squad drama starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman (8297913)
10.00 The Comedy Network A showcase for new comedians (4851933)
10.30 Tibs and Fibs Lighthearted medical quiz (8556541)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show The guests include Ian Hislop (5438642)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6515284)
12.45am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (24796314)
3.45 Asian Football Show (5446547)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (T) (5341685)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7508260)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (93508?) **9.00** Hotel (21246) **10.00** Another World (41115?) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (54623) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (81826) **1.00pm** Geraldo (67246) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (29449) **3.00** Jenny Jones (83710) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (79517) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (9265) **6.00** The Live 6 Show (4420) **6.30** Married... with Children (5772) **7.00** The Simpsons (6474) **7.30** Real TV (4284) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (45619) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (19623) **10.00** Sliders (12710) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (42338) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (91956) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (28531) **2.00** Long Play (65993141)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888. Each film costs **£2.99** per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 20) **The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996)** SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Chain Reaction (1996)** SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Courage Under Fire (1996)** SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 58) **Michael Collins (1996)**

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975) (43062) **8.00 Desert Bloom (1986)** (30771) **10.00 Asterix Conquers America (1994)** (73807) **12.00 Lionheart: The Children's Crusade (1987)** (26350) **2.00pm Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975)** (59802) **4.00 Asterix Conquers America (1994)** (4197) **6.00 A Holiday to Remember (1995)** (79623) **8.00 French Kiss (1995)** (78371) **10.05 Executive Decision (1996)** (56611439) **12.20am Murderous Intent (1995)** (191625) **1.55 The Cowboy Way (1994)** (801482) **3.45 White Water Summer (1987)** (59840258)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am The Swan Princess (1994) (41604) **8.00 The Walls of Jericho (1948)** (34371) **10.00 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995)** (71449) **12.00 Un Lugar en el Mundo (1992)** (24994) **2.00pm A Mother's Prayer (1995)** (59884) **4.00 Horses and Champions (1995)** (2739) **6.00 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995)** (37265) **8.00 The Titanic (1996)** (798130) **10.30 Hideaway (1995)** (53677826) **12.40am The Tomorrow Man (1995)** (9325956) **1.50 The Android Affair (1995)** (1017734) **3.20 Waxwork (1989)** (427314) **5.00 The Corsican Brothers** (90521)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Citizen Kane (1941) (9219739) **6.00 Always (1989)** (4450246) **8.00 Horseman on the Roof (1995)** (4455791) **10.00 Sea of Love (1989)** (6723401) **11.55 Young Guns of Texas (1962)** (3938623) **1.15am Up Periscope (1959)** (4534024) **3.05 Les Yeux Sans Visage (1959)** (25623802) **4.35** Close

TNT

9.00pm Crucifer of Blood (1991) (56142265) **11.00 Tarzan the Ape Man (1932)** (32988081) **1.00am Final Verdict (1991)** (32946005) **3.00 Crucifer of Blood (1991)** (60359444) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Spanish Primera Liga (26085) **9.00** Racing News (99246) **9.30** Aerobics (33178) **10.00** Football Special (46642) **12.00** Aerobics (44410) **12.30pm** Watersports World (95371) **1.30** Football Special (99438) **3.30** Scottish Coca-Cola Cup Final (25343) **4.30** Futsal Mundial (3536) **5.00** Watersports World (4739) **6.00** Sports Centre (7771) **6.30** League Review (4081) **7.00** Bolton Wanderers v Newcastle United — Live (4316352) **10.30** Sports Centre (96159) **11.00** Watersports World (91176) **12.00** Bolton Wanderers v Newcastle United (15550) **2.00am** Sports Centre (92227) **2.30** League Review (71734) **3.00** Sports Centre (11239) **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (9166826) **7.30** Windsurfing (91453321) **8.00** Racing (5988888) **8.30** World Sport Special (5987159) **9.00** Ice Hockey (9536265) **11.30** World Sports Special (7426361) **12.00** Scottish Coca-Cola Cup (7961159) **1.00pm** Extreme Sport (9165197) **1.30** Squash: PSA World Open (1018994) **2.30** Rugby Union: England v South Africa (0362994) **4.30** Sports Unlimited (8748541) **5.30** League Review (6134772) **6.00** Windsurfing (6164313) **6.30** V-Max (6155265) **7.00** Sports Centre (2562623) **7.30** World Motor Sport (6048623) **10.30** V-Max (5981352) **11.00** League Review (9426541) **11.30** Squash: PSA World Open (4276623) **12.30am** Windsurfing (1333043) **1.00** Sports Centre (9131753) **1.30** V-Max (4231550)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Cricket: Australia v New Zealand (67198642) **2.00** NFL American Football (20722284) **7.00** Fish TV (56132888) **8.00** Cricket: Australia v New Zealand (56145352) **10.00** Rugby League: Big League Classic (63234420) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Sailing (89333) **8.00** Motors Magazine (85401) **9.00** Ski-Jumping: World Cup (72555) **11.00** Bobsleigh: World Cup (98081) **12.00** Skiing: Men's World Cup Downhill (75642) **2.00pm** Nordic Combined Skiing: World Cup (39807) **3.30** Ski-Jumping: World Cup (93401) **4.30** Speedworld Magazine (41994) **6.00** Tennis: Charity Exhibition Tournament — Live (769593) **9.00** Boxing (68913) **10.00** Eurogoals (99642) **11.30** Billiards: Team Cup (33623) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge (4893807) **7.35** Neighbours (4679772) **8.00** Crossroads (2744031) **8.25** EastEnders (6391246) **9.00** The Bill (6590604) **9.30** Howards' Way (9800246) **10.00** Bless This House (1978807) **10.30** The Sullivans (6596888) **11.00** Kinsey (8525994) **12.00** Crossroads (46657739) **12.25** Neighbours (4668C826) **12.55** EastEnders (2511536) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (4706555) **2.10** Open All Hours (6076197) **2.50** Last of the Summer Wine (9842888) **3.30** The Bill (3362352) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (38101449) **5.05** EastEnders (1665739) **5.40** Full House (4846913) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (1950888) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (8027997) **7.45** Rose (8442604) **8.20** Open All Hours (7199915) **9.00** The Bill (1385401) **9.30** New Work (66762449) **10.40** Yes, Minister (5059468) **11.20** New Statesman (3393062) **11.55** Between the Lines (3983401) **12.50am** Spitting Image (4472753) **1.20** Miami Vice (2900821) **2.10** Shopping (84162550)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (8593062) **7.00** Coronation St (6017517) **7.30** Families (6929352) **8.00** Blind Date (6543371) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (4485642) **10.00** Donahue (6935536) **11.00** Hart to Hart (6905772) **12.00** Coronation St (8358994) **12.30pm** Families (2328449) **1.00** On the Buses (6916888) **1.30** Please Sir! (2810420) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (7424710) **3.00** Donahue (7658352) **4.00** Mission: Impossible (7644159) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (3412265) **6.00** Families (7785826) **6.30** Coronation St (7776178) **7.00** Blind Date (2587389) **8.00** Hart to Hart (6282997) **9.00** Coronation St (7666371) **9.30** Hale and Pace (2831913) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (7432230) **11.00** Close

Orson Welles in *Citizen Kane* (Sky Movies Gold 4.00pm)

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

6.00pm Gridlock (40838619) **6.30** Hey Dad II (28124791) **6.00** Blockbusters (28121604) **6.30** A Country Practice (28145284) **7.00** My Two Wives (85087935) **7.30** Pull the Other One (28141468) **8.00** Birds of a Feather (89782541) **8.30** London Bridge (90037439) **9.00** Chancer (56136604) **10.00** Soldier, Soldier (58139791) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84862178) **12.00** Pull the Other One (63292444) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (54507260) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree **6.30** Rosie and Jim **6.45** Winnie the Pooh **7.00** Aladdin: The Series **7.30** Tex Avery **8.00** Dinosaurs **8.30** Bonkers **9.00** Gummi Bears **9.30** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers **9.55** Mouse and Mole **10.00** Sesame Street **11.00** Winnie the Pooh **11.15** Rosie and Jim **11.35** Sing Me a Story with Belle **12.00** Tots TV **12.30pm** It's Fun to Learn with Spot **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame Street **2.00** Amazing Animals **2.30** Gummi Bears **3.00** Tale Spin **3.30** Goof Troop **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa **4.30** Aladdin: The Series **5.00** Gargoyles: The Goliath Chronicles **5.30** Dinosaurs **6.00** Blossom **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Home Improvement **7.30** The Wonder Years **8.00** FILM: Angels **9.40** Dave's World **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Dolly and His Friends **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** The Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Batman **9.00** Earthworm Jim **9.30** Romuald the Reindeer **10.00** Oscar's Orchestra **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Spirou **12.30pm** Sonic **1.00** Batman **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Batman

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh!! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Paddington Bear etc **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** No Naked Flames **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** TX Six **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Move on Up **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Karaoke Challenge **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Karaoke Challenge **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** Explorer **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Jeux Sans Frontières **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

6.00pm The A-Team (4349159) **9.00** Tour of Duty (4352623) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (5451468) **10.45 FILM: Scanners (1980)** (9336555) **12.45am** Tour of Duty (1755085) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (5854937) **2.30 FILM: Scanners (1980)** (2298734) **4.30** The Maxx (7534555) **5.00** Starsky and Hutch (4988937)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (6710) **7.30** Roseanne (8807) **8.00** Ellen (2130) **8.30** Cybill (1265) **9.00** Cheers (11517) **9.30** Taxi (15772) **10.00** Frasier (94951) **10.30** The Kenny Everett Show (87401) **11.00** Still in Bed with MeDinner (16062) **11.30** Ellen (54536) **12.00** Roseanne (89918) **12.30am** Nightstand (73969) **1.00** Soap (22395) **1.30** Taxi (38444) **2.00** Still in Bed with MeDinner (90869) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (79376) **3.00** Frasier (85901) **3.30** The Kenny Everett Show (93956) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings Special: UFOs (3475994) **10.00** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (3454401) **11.00** Friday the 13th (6776623) **12.00** Sightings (5689032) **1.00am** Twilight Zone (9054685) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3866395) **2.00** Dark Shadows (7988665) **2.30** New Hitchcock (7987173) **3.00** Friday the 13th (9766005) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot **10.30** New Yankee Workshop **11.00** Andy's Angling Adventures **11.30** Hometime **12.00** Wheel Nuts **12.30pm** This Old House **1.00** Yan Can Cook **1.30** The Restoration Game **2.00** The Furniture Guys **2.30** Antiques Trail **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** Home Again **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (3349401) **4.30** Roadshow (3378913) **5.00** Ancient Warriors (2598371) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (3369265) **6.00** Wild Discovery: The Lion's Share (9810623) **7.00** Discovery News (8583807) **7.30** Disaster (3379642) **8.00** Untamed Amazonia (4345333) **9.00** In Search of the Last Mammoth (4365197) **10.00** Invisible Places: Underworld (4388284) **11.00** Wings (8504401) **12.00** The Diceman (7741647) **12.30am** Roadshow (7352227) **1.00** Disaster (8184294) **1.30** Discovery News (9337531) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Explorer (8238913) **8.00** Polar Bear Alert (8214333) **9.00** Dash to the South Pole (8234197) **10.00** The New Matadors (5501420) **10.30** Horses and Heroes (5527468) **11.00** Wild Life Adventures: The Last Wild River Ride (5551604) **12.00** Explorer (2189482) **1.00am** Close

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm Travel Live **1.00** Wet and Wild **1.30** Railway Adventures Across Europe **2.00** Reel World **2.30** On the Road to the Islands **3.00** Holiday International **4.00** Cities of the World **4.30** Greg's World **5.00** Aspects of Life **5.30** Ocean World of John Stoneman **6.00** Sports Safaris **6.30** Wet and Wild **7.00** Islands in Paradise **8.00** On the Horizon **8.30** Flavours of France **9.00** An Aerial Tour of Britain **10.00** On Tour **10.30** Snow Safari **11.00** Widlake's Way

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons at War (1518222) **5.00** The Great Ships (2561994) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (7973371) **7.00** Biography: George Washington (2043159) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** The Green Gourmet **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** For Better, for Worse **2.00** Frances Bissell's West Country Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Surprise Chefs **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** Can't Stand the Heat **4.30** Planet Nosh **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Why Me? **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.55** Brookside **12.25pm** Jimmy's **12.55** Cheap Chic **1.25** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.05** Hart to Hart **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Cheap Chic **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: One of Her Own** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Ru Ba Ru **8.00** Business **8.30** Raahat **9.00** Sharda **11.30** Margarita **12.00** Parampara **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00 FILM** **4.00** Ike Pe Ikka **4.30** Udan Choo **5.00** Pop Korn **5.30** Dance Mania **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** Mast Must Show **7.00** Your Zindagi **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Sailaab **9.00 FILM**

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BUSINESS

HOUSING 50
Roger Bootle on the broom cupboard test

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY DECEMBER 1 1997

CBI backs call to scrap Serps

By Caroline Merrell

The CBI is advocating the abolition of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) in its submission on the Government's pension review.

In common with many in the pensions industry, the CBI wants Serps to be replaced with a funded national pension scheme, which would be run like an occupational scheme. The benefits paid out would be defined by the amount paid in, unlike Serps, where the pension is related to the number of years of employment and the level of earnings.

However, the CBI is not yet convinced whether contributions for this second pension tier should be made compulsory. The CBI said: "In view of the uncertainties about the impact of a national minimum wage, Government's intentions on pensions scheme taxation, and concerns about the impacts on employers' labour costs, the CBI cannot accept additional compulsory contributions on employers at this stage."

The CBI is particularly concerned about the impact of compulsory contributions on small and medium-sized firms which do not provide occupational schemes.

It says that proposals for stakeholder pensions could well have an impact. If these can provide cost effective pensions, this might well play a role in persuading employers of the merits of further employer provision.

Stakeholder pensions, proposals for which were unveiled last month, are aimed at providing pensions for the millions without access to company pensions schemes.

The CBI is also keen to ensure that the tax breaks enjoyed by pension schemes are continued.

South Korea reaches $20bn deal with IMF

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

SOUTH KOREA reached agreement with the International Monetary Fund yesterday over a $20 billion (£12 billion) rescue package for its ailing economy, reviving hopes that the Asian financial crisis can be contained.

After a weekend of frantic negotiations, Lim Chang Yuel, South Korea's Finance Minister, confirmed at midnight Seoul time that the two sides had succeeded in ironing out their differences.

Full details of the plan, which are likely to revolutionise the structure of South Korea's economy, are expected to be announced later in the week, once the package has secured the formal backing of Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, and his board.

The main difficulty in putting together the package is understood to have been the IMF's demand that four commercial banks and 12 merchant banks be liquidated immediately. The IMF has also demanded that the remaining 18 major merchant banks only be permitted to take on new business if their debt-to-equity ratio is below 4 per cent.

The battered financial markets received a further boost yesterday when Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party confirmed it is prepared to use public money to help to bail out the country's troubled financial sector. Koichi Kato, secretary-general of the LDP, said funds would be used to protect depositors but not save failed institutions. He expected a number of other institutions to follow Yamaichi into liquidation.

South Korea, which is the world's 11th largest economy, is understood to have asked for $20 billion in standby credits to help to ease its current currency crisis. But analysts believe the country will ultimately require up to $60 billion of aid to replenish foreign exchange reserves.

Other institutions, including the World Bank, and individual donors such as Japan and the United States, are expected to offer support once the IMF package has been ratified.

The South Korean economy has been hit by a major currency crisis, which has left its major corporations struggling to finance foreign debt obligations. The South Korean won has lost more than 20 per cent of its value against the dollar, while the country's stock market has halved in value, placing further pressure on the financial services sector.

South Korean state radio reported yesterday that the IMF had asked for interest rates, currently 15 per cent, to be raised to between 18 and 20 per cent to help to halve the country's rate of economic growth from the 6 per cent expected this year. Ownerships laws will also be liberalised, opening up the country's financial sector to overseas investors.

Analysts predicted the IMF reforms will spell the end of the *chaebol*, the system of corporate ownership that has resulted in four giant conglomerates — Hyundai, LG, Daewoo and Samsung — controlling about 80 per cent of the economy. This system has been supported by collusion between government and big business and has resulted in the banking sector being instructed to supply the necessary credit to maintain the country's phenomenal growth record.

The IMF is also expected to call for some painful restructuring in the labour market to help to control spiralling wage inflation. All three candidates in South Korea's presidential race, which concludes on December 18, have declared their support for the IMF package but analysts fear a new government could be slow to implement reform.

South Korea has overseas investments totalling $16 billion, including a number of major investments in the UK which are now expected to be scaled back. Samsung, which has $93 billion of sales, has already announced it will halt expansion of car production, while Hyundai has decided to delay part of its £3 billion investment in semi-conductor factories in Scotland.

A bank employee in Seoul waiting for customers to apply for credit cards yesterday

Asian rescue delayed again

ASIAN finance ministers were again forced to put on hold plans to establish an independent regional rescue fund yesterday after a meeting on the initiative failed to attract a number of key players (Alasdair Murray writes).

The finance ministers, who were in Malaysia to discuss the new fund, said that the continuing turmoil in the region and outstanding differences over the structure of the fund were likely to prevent agreement until next year.

The idea of an Asian rescue fund, independent of the International Monetary Fund, was floated by Anwar Ibrahim, the Malaysian Finance Minister. But progress has been hit by a number of cancellations, including Lim Chang Yuel, of South Korea, who was completing his country's deal with the IMF.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, Japanese Finance Minister, and Lawrence Summers, US Deputy Treasury Secretary, were also absent, reflecting their scepticism about the plan.

Exchange to look into fall of blue chips

By Dominic Walsh

THE London Stock Exchange is to investigate a sharp fall in the FTSE 100 index of blue-chip stocks just before close of trading on Friday.

A spokesman said that officials in the supervision department would look at trades in stocks such as Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham (SB), the drugs giants, that sent the index 38 points lower in the last minute before the close.

SB, the sixth biggest stock by market capitalisation, shed 40p over the last 15 minutes' trading, resulting in an overall loss of 8.3 per cent on the day. Glaxo, which ranks second in the FTSE, closed down 5.7 per cent.

The Exchange spokesman declined to specify what action might be taken, but he said that late losses provided another dramatic illustration of the often unpredictable workings of Sets, the new automated trading system. Sets, which was introduced a month ago to replace market-makers for FTSE 100 stocks, automatically matches buy and sell orders but has come in for sharp criticism for the often wide spread between shares' buy and sell prices.

In a review of the new system, Martin Wheatley, the Exchange's head of markets development, admitted last week that the sometimes erratic closing prices thrown up by Sets were one of his main worries. However, he indicated that no changes to the system would be considered before the new year.

The problem seems to be caused by the habit developed by some brokers of removing bids and offers from trading screens just before the close of business. This leaves last-minute orders to be executed against the few widely divergent prices that remain, misrepresenting share prices and distorting index levels and option values.

Mr Wheatley said that the reforms under consideration included asking brokers to desist from the practice of removing bids and offers or taking an earlier closing price for shares.

Bass expected to sell off Gala

By Dominic Walsh

BASS, the brewing and leisure group, is expected this week to write down the value of its Gala Bingo division by about £200 million, paving the way for a £250 million-plus sale.

Sources suggest the group is in negotiations with a number of venture capital groups over a deal although it is not thought to be in a position to announce a preferred bidder when it reports its full-year results on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Whitbread last night played down renewed suggestions that it might be on the verge of quitting brewing. It dismissed a report that it was considering selling its brewing division to management as "nothing more than market rumour and speculation".

Bass, in common with other bingo operators, has been severely affected by the National Lottery in recent years. Goldman Sachs, the broker, is forecasting a 28 per cent slump in full-year operating profits, to £22 million, for the 136-strong Gala chain.

The sale of Gala is part of a major review of Bass's operations by Sir Ian Prosser, chairman. A raft of 200 lesser pubs is also to be sold and there are suggestions that he may be quietly canvassing expressions of interest in Coral, the group's bookmaking business, after a rather half-hearted attempt to buy William Hill from Brent Walker.

Such disposals would be enough to wipe out Bass's debt, leaving it with substantial cash for acquisitions. Top of Sir Ian's shopping list is a European hotel chain.

Companies, page 48

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1265

ACROSS
1 Visiting succession of bars (3,5)
5 Break at edge: piece of potato (4)
9 Out of practice: oxidised (5)
10 Found out: knowledgeable (7)
11 Old jacket, worn with hose (7)
12 Faithful (5)
13 Balding (4,2,3)
18 Dying coal (5)
20 Girl's uniform tunic once (7)
22 Frances H —, Ivy Compton—, novelists (7)
23 Pull (one's) leg (5)
24 Breathing organ (4)
25 Law breaker (8)

DOWN
1 Travestied version (6)
2 Cookie: the surprising takes it (7)
3 Kingly: sort of bee jelly (5)
4 Of high reputation (4,7,2)
6 Bee product (5)
7 Sell (small articles) (6)
8 A vote (6)
14 Name given Jacob at Bethel (6)
15 Cut-back tree: de-antlered animal (7)
16 Plant-property manual (6)
17 Seem; turn up (6)
19 A lord: sounds like *infertile* (5)
21 Bishop's headgear (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1264
ACROSS: 1 Body 3 Whistler 8 Bouncer 10 Fence 11 In due course 13 Alaska 15 Bottle 17 Etymologist 20 Aggro 21 Redraft 22 Heraldry 23 Meal
DOWN: 1 Biblical 2 Druid 4 Harrow 5 So far so good 6 Lenient 7 Reek 9 Cheek by jowl 12 Teetotal 14 Avenger 16 Poorer 18 Image 19 Bath

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Pay warning as William Cook faces pressure

By Fraser Nelson

THE audacious £80 million leveraged buyout of William Cook is showing the first signs of creaking, after the family-owned steel castings maker gave a warning to its workers that they cannot expect a pay rise this year.

The strength of sterling has prompted the warning that any pay increase must be funded through productivity gains. However, Andrew Cook, chief executive, is understood to have been told by union leaders that his Sheffield steelworks could be paralysed by industrial action unless the pay threat is withdrawn.

Failure to reach an agreement could jeopardise the tightly balanced buyout tabled by Mr Cook to escape a bid from its rival, Triplex Lloyd. The company is highly geared and majority-owned by Electra, the venture capital house. A company spokesman said: "We don't really feel we can commit to any type of automatic increase because of the pressure we and the rest of the British industry are under."

Since the buyout last March, orders from the mining sector have been threatened by the uncertainties surrounding RJB Mining, while sterling's strength has eroded its competitive edge in overseas markets where it generates 25 per cent of sales.

Any sign of trouble at William Cook will be keenly watched in the City, where Electra's leveraged buyout was regarded as an foolhardy act of bravado in many quarters. To escape Triplex's cash and shares bid, William Cook took on some £37 million of bank debt in the buyout.

Electra, the venture capital house, invested £30 million of equity and controls 78.5 per cent of the shares.

Mr Cook, who has been described by Electra as "an autocrat, but not an ogre," has agreed to cut his salary from £500,000 or £200,000 a year and retains a 14 per cent stake in the company.

CWC calls a halt to BT prices brochure

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

A FRESH row has broken out between Cable & Wireless Communications and BT over which offers the cheapest telephone services.

CWC, the largest cable communications group, obtained an interim injunction from a High Court judge at the weekend preventing BT issuing a glossy marketing brochure aimed at small businesses. The brochure, which has been printed but not yet sent to customers, claims that, overall, BT is cheaper than CWC for small business customers.

The cable group regards the BT claim as absurd and says it is cheaper. The issue of which is right is complicated by the fact that since the formation of CWC from the merger of three cable companies, Bell Cablemedia, Nynex and Videotron with Mercury Communications, separate deals have been packaged for individual companies based on their pattern of usage.

CWC received a copy of the brochure anonymously and decided to act before it was released. It sees the BT move as being designed to cause confusion in the market.

There has been tension for years between the cable industry and BT about claims allegedly made by BT staff when trying to dissuade customers from defecting to cable phones or in trying to woo people back. BT said last night the brochure was fairly researched and similar to marketing documents already published. It said a robust defence of the brochure and the right to distribute it would be offered at a High Court hearing on Wednesday.

Tomorrow
Julian Lee asks whether the telephone can do the work of marketing

Wednesday
A chemical reaction: Can Allied Colloids hold off Hercules?

Thursday
Anatole Kaletsky, right, gives his enlightening views on the economy

This week in THE TIMES

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